



## WHAT IS MICRA?

California's Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) ensures injured patients receive fair compensation while preserving access to health care by keeping doctors, nurses and health care providers in practice and hospitals and clinics open. Without MICRA's protections, many of California's neediest populations could face reduced access to much-needed services.

California voters definitively rejected an attempt to quadruple MICRA's non-economic damages cap in 2014. According to California's former Legislative Analyst, increasing the MICRA cap would raise health care costs by approximately \$11.4 billion annually, or more than \$1,100 for a family of four.

## PROTECTING PATIENTS' RIGHTS AND PRESERVING ACCESS TO THE COURTS

### UNLIMITED

economic damages for past and future medical costs.

### UNLIMITED

economic damages for lost wages, lifetime earning potential and any other conceivable economic losses.

### ADDITIONAL

limits on attorney's fees so patients, not lawyers, receive more from awards.

### ADDITIONAL

\$250,000 available in non-economic damages, sometimes called pain and suffering.

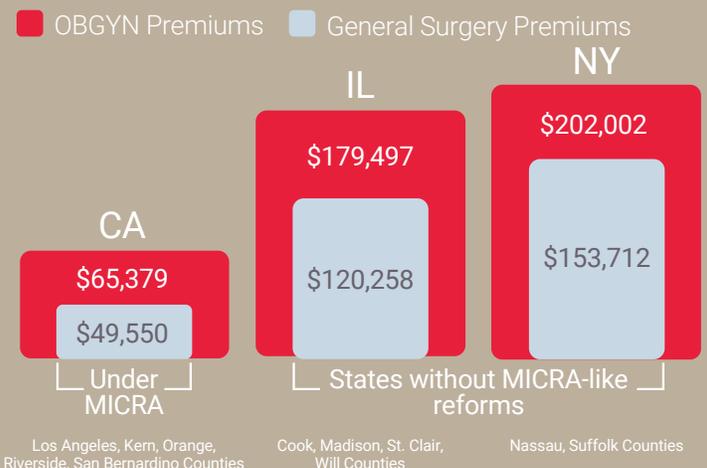
## SUPPORTED BY A LARGE AND DIVERSE COALITION OF PATIENT ADVOCATES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Californians Allied for Patient Protection (CAPP) protects access to health care by preserving MICRA. CAPP's coalition includes health care professionals and organizations representing community clinics, public safety organizations, physicians, nurses, dentists, hospitals, health facilities, women's health advocates, emergency providers, local governments and labor unions, among others.

## PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- MICRA has stabilized costs, enabling more providers to remain in practice. States without reform suffer from provider shortages leading to the closing of hospitals, clinics and trauma centers and leaving patients with no doctors in their immediate vicinity.
- MICRA is critical in protecting access to specialty and high-risk services, including women's health care, community clinics, health centers and rural providers that can least afford skyrocketing costs.
- More lawsuits would increase costs for rural and urban community clinics that provide care to underserved Californians. These costs would then be offset elsewhere, either through a reduction in services, staff or operating hours.

### MICRA Stabilizes Costs



“ If MICRA is changed and our medical liability rates go up... it's our patients, mostly low-income and people of color with few health options, who will lose access to health care services. We should be focused on lowering health care costs to expand access to care, not the other way around. ”

Jim Mangia | President and CEO, St. John's Well Child & Family Center



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