

As of Friday, June 21, 2002, we the physicians of Catchingc Clinic, Woodville, were turned down for malpractice insurance by MACM. This was our last hope to keep our clinic open for our patients who have depended on this clinic for >80 years. Excluding the drug-type suits against three of its practitioners, three of the four MD's, (a fourth is retiring), have had NO malpractice suits against us in our combined 44 years of practice! Yet, apparently because of where we practice, we are uninsurable! This is a travesty that you, our elected officials should not have allowed to occur and must remedy with all haste. As of July 1, 2002, Wilkinson and Amite counties will have only one MD, and he gaces the same demise as of August 31, 2002.

Please resist the temptation to favor the trial lawyers and their skewed view of the situation. Their contention that the insurance industry suffers from poor investment performance may be true, but it has NOTHING to do with the fact that insurors are **PETRIFIED** by the thought of the risks they will incur (an unlimited/unquantifiable risk I might add) by entering the Mississippi malpractice market. My clinic is one of many that will "go the way of the buffalo" without your prompt attention.

---Eliminate venue shopping.

---Eliminate joint and severable liability. Where is the fairness in holding me accountable for someone else's fault?

---Cap awards at or below \$500,000.

Robert L. Lewis, MD  
Woodville