



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2005

Contact: Mark Graul, 920-435-2006

Mark Green Statement on Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision Striking Down Medical Lawsuit Cap

In response to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision on non-economic damage cap Congressman Mark Green issued the following statement Thursday:

"In 1995, I was the author of the lawsuit reform legislation that has led to Wisconsin being one of the few states in the country where medical professionals are free to practice all types of medicine without the overwhelming fear of being sued. In a time when too many working families in our state are being priced out of the health care market, these caps are one of the few measures working to keep costs down.

"Let's be clear, the cap struck down today do not apply at all to medical expenses, lost wages or any other costs incurred by an injured party. All the cap does is limit (now at \$445,755 and increased every year at the rate of inflation) unquantifiable "non-economic damages." Thanks to this common sense reform, over the past decade Wisconsin has become a magnet for physicians who are tending to the health needs of our citizens in every part of our state.

"Today's misguided decision puts all that in jeopardy.

"While we still need to sort out the best path to react to this decision and prevent lawsuits from crippling our health care system, I am sure Governor Doyle will be of no help. He's stood in opposition to every reasonable attempt to place common sense limits on lawsuits – he even vetoed legislation that would prohibit overweight people from suing restaurants because they eat too much.

"Finally, thank goodness for the Legislature's decision to reject Governor Doyle's attempt to steal from the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund. Had Governor Doyle's raid been successful, this decision could have caused an astronomical increase in health care costs in Wisconsin when we are already struggling to keep health care affordable."

###

P.O. Box 22366 • Green Bay WI, 54305 • 920-435-2006 • 920-430-7486 (fax)
www.votemarkgreen.com

Paid for by Green for Wisconsin, Rick Johnson, Treasurer