



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Passage of Senate Bill 68 Protects Access to Care in Georgia**

ATLANTA – Governor Brian Kemp’s key legislative priority on tort reform received final adoption by the Senate today, with a vote of 34-21 on Senate Bill 68. This bill brings meaningful balance to our civil justice system, easing pressures on healthcare providers and hospitals across Georgia. This modernization of Georgia’s tort laws safeguards our healthcare workforce and preserves access to healthcare for Georgians.

“Healthcare liability reform is a critically important issue to our members, and we are proud to stand alongside Governor Kemp, Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, Speaker Jon Burns, President Pro Tempore John Kennedy, our partners in the House and Senate, and other industry leaders in support of this historic effort,” said GHA President and CEO Caylee Noggle. “This bill will restore balance to our civil litigation system, ensuring that doctors feel safe practicing in Georgia, and will protect access to care for Georgians. We look forward to Governor Kemp signing this bill in the coming weeks.”

Georgia's current tort laws have encouraged extremely high jury awards and have led to increased cost of care for Georgia’s patients. When signed into law, this new legislation will protect Georgians’ right to justice, while ensuring a fair process for all involved. Georgia’s healthcare workforce will be strengthened because hospitals will be in a better position to recruit and retain physicians, especially in rural areas and specialized fields of medicine.

### **About GHA**

Founded in 1929, GHA serves more than 150 hospitals in Georgia and promotes the health and welfare of the public through the development of better hospital care for all Georgia’s citizens. The mission of GHA is to advance the health of individuals and communities by serving as the leading advocate for all Georgia hospitals and health care systems. GHA represents its members before the General Assembly and Congress, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies, and is an allied member of the American Hospital Association. For more information, please call 770-249-4500 or visit [gha.org](http://gha.org).

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