

Mississippi Shining – State Wins Top Spot in Ranking for Physician Friendly Places
USAttorneys.com
By Benjamin Roussey
October 15, 2014

Mississippi almost always finds itself on the top of some or the other national ranking. And it is not always a positive thing! But when a nationwide survey for physicians says that the Magnolia State is the best place to practice medicine free of limiting laws and tax burdens, doctors all over the country are willing to sit up and take notice.

And it's not a fluke—for the second straight year, Mississippi has topped the list of best states in US to practice medicine. This not only boosts the state's profile as a medical center in the Mid-South region but it also means that the state could be seeing an influx of doctors from other states soon. And they will be coming from California in droves in Prop. 46 goes through.

Gov. looks at DeSoto County as new health care nexus

The news comes as a vindication of sorts for the government's efforts in promoting and reorganizing the medical sector in the state. Governor Phil Bryant, who visited Southaven last Thursday on a promotional tour, used the survey rankings to encourage leaders in DeSoto County to come forward and use the advantages that the administration is providing to doctors and healthcare practitioners. Gov. Bryant sees this as an opportunity to promote DeSoto County as a regional medical center that not only Mississippi residents, but people throughout the Mid-South can come to.

In his statement, Gov. Bryant said that with proper care and efforts, DeSoto County can become the "nexus for health care" in the future. He was speaking at the 'HealthCare Huddle' sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council. DeSoto County, which has two famous hospitals and a lot of marvelous primary care physicians, can play an important role in Mississippi's revival as a focal point for health care in the region. Not only can it be an economic driver for the state, Gov. Bryant says that by erasing state lines Mississippi can also draw patients from its neighboring states of Arkansas and Tennessee.

Tort reforms one of the reasons for high ranking

The nationwide ranking comes from the organization 'Physician's Practice'. It surveys physicians on factors that are known to affect medical practice's financial health such as cost of living, disciplinary actions taken against physicians, tax burdens per capita, Geographic Practice Cost Index prepared by Medicare, physician density, and malpractice award payouts per capita.

While medical malpractice attorneys in the state may argue some about the reasons for low malpractice awards and their consequences, the truth is that the tort reforms passed in 2011 have made the state a much more physician-friendly place than before.

Mississippi Serves as a Beacon of Hope

Gov. Bryant meanwhile is on a whirlwind ride to use the positive publicity from the survey and use it to tell more people about the state's "welcoming climate" for doctors. The news is on the state website, and the Governor's recent speeches have been peppered with references to the same. The two popular hospitals of Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto in Southaven, and the new Methodist-Olive Branch hospital, have already begun to attract patients from Arkansas and Tennessee. If all goes well for Gov. Bryant, this could be Mississippi's shining moment in the medical world in the days to come.