



# PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

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Chancellor

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March 16, 2006

Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Senate Bill 435 (Joint and Several Liability)

Dear Governor Rendell:

On behalf of the 13,000 members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, I write to urgently request that you veto the recently passed S.B. 435, which effectively destroys the common law principle of joint and several liability. This historic legal concept is rooted in the principle of prioritizing an innocent victim's right to compensation over the assets and insurance coverage of proven wrongdoers. Unfortunately, the radical reform of joint and several liability contained in S.B. 435, as narrowly passed by the legislature, essentially destroys this time-honored and fundamental sharing of responsibility. A more balanced approach to joint and several liability reform, sponsored by Rep. Gannon, failed in the House by a single vote.

The Philadelphia Bar Association has always recognized you to be a champion for the protection of individual rights, and particularly the rights of innocent victims who have been harmed by the carelessness of others. We hope that you will once again rise to support the ordinary citizens of Pennsylvania by exercising a veto of the draconian version of joint and several liability reform contained in S.B. 435, with the objective of arriving at a reasonable and balanced solution to this contentious issue. We are most grateful for your consideration of this very important matter.

Very truly yours,

Alan M. Feldman

AMF/dk

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