



From The Illinois State Medical Society

# NEWS

[www.isms.org](http://www.isms.org)

20 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • Phone 312-782-1654

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 9, 2013

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

John Maszinski, 312-580-6440  
(cell) 312-608-3620

## **Setting the Record Straight on Financing of Medical Discipline and Licensure**

*Statement of William N. Werner, MD  
President, Illinois State Medical Society*

Chicago, IL -- The Illinois State Medical Society is deeply troubled that almost \$9 million has been diverted from Illinois' Medical Disciplinary Fund in recent years and used for purposes unrelated to medical discipline. Despite ISMS pleas to restore these funds no legislative action was taken. Now the Fund faces a financial shortfall.

The Medical Disciplinary Fund supports the crucial functions of physician licensure and discipline. It is essential that adequate financial resources are available to ensure continued operation of the IDFPR's Medical Unit. Prior to these Fund diversions there were adequate monies for medical licensure and discipline.

In the final days of the recent General Assembly session "a solution" was offered to fund the Medical Disciplinary Fund through 2013. The proposal required borrowing against future monies collected by the Fund. This means that instead of paying \$9.6 million in the short-term, the Medical Disciplinary Fund would face significantly greater expenses in 2014. The Illinois State Medical Society opposes such remedies that further grow the problem.

Illinois' practice of delaying payment for financial obligations must end. Sufficient monies to finance medical discipline and licensure were collected and diverted. It's now time to restore this money to its intended purpose.

Our position is simple. Return the monies that were taken from the Fund and do not borrow against the Fund's future revenue to pay current obligations.

###