

MDCALA

Maryland
Citizens Against
Lawsuit Abuse



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Carrie W. Capuco, J.D.

December 24, 2003

Dear Editor,

A recent local newspaper article, "Feeling the Pinch Strapped", a physician solicited donations from his patients to meet a big increase in malpractice insurance" documents a national crisis in our health care system.

According to the American Medical Association, doctors in at least 29 states, including Maryland, have been forced to quit performing high-risk procedures or give up their medical practices completely because the financial and liability risks are too high. In this case, Dr. Kenneth Greene had to resort to soliciting donations from his patients, on top of the fees he already charges them, in order to subsidize and draw attention to this growing crisis-specifically the outrageous increases in malpractice insurance premiums.

If our doctors are forced out of their offices by out of control insurance rates or the fear of being frivolously sued and losing their practices, who will be left to help us when our children are sick or we are in need of a complicated surgery? As insurance carriers raise premiums on doctors, their practices will suffer, as will our care.

We have a choice in Maryland. We can have doctors to see, or doctors to sue. We can't have both.

Sincerely,

Carrie W. Capuco
Executive Director
Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse