

MDCALA

Maryland
Citizens Against
Lawsuit Abuse



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Carrie W. Capuco, J.D.

September 8, 2004

The Washington Post

Re: "Patients Pushed to Get Political"

Dear Editor:

Your recent article detailing the new measures doctors are taking to draw attention to the need for comprehensive medical malpractice reform ("Patients Pushed to Get Political", September 7, 2004) demonstrates the seriousness of the crisis currently facing Maryland.

Maryland's status as a "red alert" state, announced by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), further indicates the gravity of the situation. Medical malpractice insurance costs continue to soar as a result of increased, often frivolous, litigation and "runaway jury awards." Doctors are closing their doors, retiring early or leaving the state because they simply cannot afford to practice.

Frivolous lawsuits do not improve current treatments or encourage medical innovation. Instead, doctors are forced to leave their practices, and patients' access to healthcare is limited. It is time we listened to the medical community and passed meaningful medical malpractice reform. We cannot afford to lose our doctors and access to quality healthcare.

Sincerely,

Carrie Capuco

Executive Director

Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse

MDCALA is a non-profit, grassroots public education organization. Its mission is to inform consumers about the costs of lawsuit abuse and ensure the legal system is used for justice, not greed