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Fwd: Important Read - Please Know the Facts

Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 8:09 PM

To: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lofgren, Mark [LEGIS]" <Mark.Lofgren@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Important Read - Please Know the Facts
Date: January 24, 2023 at 4:04:54 PM CST
To: All Legislators <alllegislators@legis.iowa.gov>
Cc: Senate Republican Research Staff <srrs@legis.iowa.gov>, "Senate Democratic Research Staff" <SDC@legis.iowa.gov>, House Republican Research Staff <hrrs@legis.iowa.gov>, House Democratic Research Staff <HDRS@legis.iowa.gov>

Dear Legislators and Staff:

I am sharing with you four topics of interest in regard to SSB1063 and HF102 that are well worth the read. Two are found below as clickable links and two are pdf documents that are attached to this email. I've also attached this letter in pdf format for those of you who wish to print and read a hard copy.

1. A System Unaccountable: A Special Report on Iowa's Licensing Boards<<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/OSR/854006.pdf>>

1. Fall 2022 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade - State Rankings<<https://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org/media/file/LFG-Hospital-Safety-Grades-Fall2022-State-Rankings-PDF.pdf>>

It is my opinion that you can't attack medical malpractice reform without considering patient safety and reimbursement rates.

I know that sometimes we lean on leadership for direction on bills, but this is such an important issue that you, yourself, will have to hear from those that experience errors. There's a lot more to medical malpractice than most people know. You don't just snap your fingers and do a civil suit.

Over the years both chambers have passed protections for medical professionals that have stopped patients from getting to the truth. The defendants stack the deck, putting the plaintiff at a huge disadvantage with total disregard for patient safety. The defendant wins at trial 90% of the time.

As a reminder, the medical malpractice bill that passed in 2017 was not just putting a \$250,000 cap for most situations, excluding if substantial or permanent loss or impairment of a bodily function, substantial disfigurement or death. These are the most vulnerable. This legislation was a compromise between the two chambers and it included additional protections for doctors, expert witness requirements and certificate of merit affidavit requirements.

One of the objectives of this bill is to lower E & O rates, especially those for OB-GYN in order to encourage OB-GYN practitioners to locate or remain in Iowa. But in fact, E & O rates in Iowa are about as low as they can get. And, Iowa OB-GYN medical insurance rates are the 5th lowest in the country. The true concern lies in leveling the playing field with reimbursement rates and in figuring out how we can do a better job of ensuring patient safety.

Despite all the reasons that many feel the soft cap in Iowa was the right legislation, why would any pro-life legislator allow an insurance company to value a life? Also, the Constitution is very sacred to many of us, why chip away at the 7th Amendment? Doing so, will only ignite the fire to go after other amendments. If a clear understanding of the true facts were communicated to Iowans, the vast majority of people would not support the proposed legislation. People of Iowa have great integrity.

Regarding Patient Safety, Leapfrog, an independent research firm, has Iowa near the bottom of the pack at 48 out of 50 states. This level should be very concerning to all of us, but one only cares if it happens to you, your family or your friend. We have been elected to be the ones who care for all Iowans where patient safety is concerned and we must do just that. How can we pass anything regarding medical malpractice reform without addressing medical errors? Any additional caps will only serve to lower the integrity of our Iowa healthcare system.

Respectfully,

Mark Lofgren

State Senator

(563) 272-8683

3 attachments



Medical Malpractice, Patient Safety & Reimbursement Letter .docx

18K



DM Register Reimbursement Article.pdf

142K



2017_IowaPatientSafety-Study-FINAL.pdf

4308K