



Enter Keyword(s)

Blogs

Voices

Home ► Blogs ► Voices ► Medical Malpractice

Topics

All Topics

On the Road

- Automobile Accidents
- Mass Transit (Airline, Cruise Ship, Train, Bus)
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Tractor-Trailer Accidents

Major Medical

Wrongful Death

Medical Malpractice

- FDA & Prescription Drugs
- Head & Brain Injuries
- Medical Devices & Implants

Protecting Your Family

- Toxic Substances
- Property Owner's Liability (Slip & Fall)
- Defective & Dangerous Products

In the Workplace

Workplace Discrimination

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

Academics: Tort Law Changes Won't Fix Health Care

Posted by Cecelia Prewett
October 07, 2009 2:52 PM



Cecelia Prewett
Contributor

Tags: AAJ, American Association for Justice, medical negligence, medical malpractice
0 Comments Print Article Subscribe

Georgetown University hosted a panel titled, "Medical Malpractice & Health Care Costs: Can Tort Reform Bend the Curve?" yesterday at its law center. The panel was an analytical response to recent commentary that medical malpractice reform is a key part of reducing health care costs. [Read an analysis of the panel from McClathy here.](#)

There were three law professors and a national policy reporter on the panel. Overall, the panel members said that medical malpractice reform negligibly reduces health care costs. Further, the panelists suggested that the political discussion has ignored or failed to mention the statistical and research-based evidence relating to how defensive medicine and tort reform affects health care costs.

M. Gregg Bloche, a Georgetown University law professor, emphasized that malpractice composes a small percentage of health care costs and does not contribute to cost increases. He also said that reducing malpractice payouts would not create savings. Kathryn Zeiler, another law professor from Georgetown University, agreed with Bloche, stating:

"The bottom line is that (malpractice) tort reforms don't work as well as proponents say they do," said Kathryn Zeiler, a professor of law and economics at Georgetown and a widely published author on the subject of malpractice revisions.

Providing a slightly different perspective, panelist David Hyman, a law professor at the University of Illinois and a Cato Institute scholar, said that the term "defensive medicine" is used too broadly and that politicians overlook the evidence that malpractice prevention does not create savings.

AAJ has created a series of reports examining the role of medical negligence in the health care debate. Just yesterday, AAJ released *The Insurance Hoax: How Doctors and Patients Pay for the Huge Profits of Medical Malpractice Insurers*. Visit www.justice.org/medicalnegligence to learn more (the reports can be found on the right-hand side of the page).



0 Comments

Have an opinion about this post? Please consider leaving a comment or subscribing to the feed to have future articles delivered to your feed reader.

Leave a comment

Have an opinion? There are 3 ways to leave a public comment.

For information on acceptable commenting practices, please visit [Lifehacker's guide to weblog comments](#). Comments containing spam or profanity will be filtered or deleted.

Method 1: Guests

Provide the information below. Your email address will not be published or sold.

Method 2: Facebook Users

Connect using your facebook account.



Subscribe to Voices



Keep up with the latest updates using your favorite RSS reader



Ask an InjuryBoard attorney a question

First Name Last Name
 Email Phone Zip

Type your questions or comments for an Attorney here



Your question will be referred to an attorney near you. If your question is of a legal nature, then by submitting this form you agree you are not forming a formal attorney / client relationship. Read our full privacy policy.



Looking for an InjuryBoard attorney closer to home? [Click here.](#)

Subscribe to Blog Updates

Enter your email address if you would like to receive email notifications when comments are made on this post.

Email address

Blog Archives

View previous posts from:

Select Month:

Regional Blogs

Find an InjuryBoard Blog in your area:

- + Alabama
- + Alaska
- + Arizona
- + Arkansas
- + California
- + Colorado
- + Connecticut
- + District of Columbia
- + Florida
- + Georgia
- + Hawaii
- + Idaho
- + Illinois
- + Indiana
- + Iowa
- + Kansas
- + Kentucky
- + Louisiana
- + Maine
- + Maryland
- + Massachusetts
- + Michigan
- + Minnesota
- + Mississippi
- + Missouri
- + Montana
- + Nebraska
- + Nevada
- + New Hampshire
- + New Jersey
- + New York
- + North Carolina
- + Ohio
- + Oklahoma
- + Oregon
- + Pennsylvania
- + Rhode Island
- + South Carolina
- + Tennessee
- + Texas
- + Utah
- + Vermont
- + Virginia
- + Washington
- + West Virginia
- + Wisconsin
- + Wyoming

<input type="text"/>	Contributors
Email Address: <input type="text"/>	Please sign in
URL: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
5000 characters remaining.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send me email notifications of additional comments on this post	
<input type="button" value="Submit Comment"/>	