

325 NORTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE
450
CHICAGO, IL 60654

TEL 312.332.2872
FAX 312.332.3112
WWW.LEVINPERCONTI.COM



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Dear Client,

As we approach the end of 2009, the debate over healthcare reform continues in the U.S. Senate. The primary goals of the healthcare reform bill are to lower healthcare costs and make quality care available to all Americans. However, proponents of so-called “tort reform” continue to cloud the debate with misinformation in order to divert attention from the true issues. Rather than fixing the healthcare system, they would like to limit patients’ legal rights. Taking away patients’ rights will not significantly reduce healthcare costs—it will only make it more difficult for victims of medical malpractice to seek justice, and therefore tort reform has no place in the healthcare debate.

Medical malpractice laws are designed to protect those who are injured through no fault of their own. These laws allow victims of medical errors to seek fair and reasonable compensation for a healthcare provider’s mistakes. Capping medical malpractice damages would limit a victim’s rights to be compensated, leaving them powerless. Medical malpractice claims are essential to address doctors’ errors and hold medical providers accountable for their mistakes. Tort reform would shield negligent providers, and would create no incentive for them to change their practices to increase patient safety.

As we have mentioned in previous letters, **over 98,000** patients die each year because of preventable medical errors. In fact, the national rate of death from medical malpractice is many times greater than the death rate by murder. Congress must focus on establishing measures to prevent medical malpractice from occurring in the first place, rather than trying to change the system that protects patients’ rights.

The healthcare bill that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives contains no caps on damages for victims of medical negligence. However, this does not mean that the discussion is over. As the Senate works through its bill, opponents of real healthcare reform will continue to propose measures to limit patients’ rights. We hope you will contact your U.S. Senators to ask them to ***vote NO on any measures designed to limit the legal rights of injured patients.*** Americans should not have to sacrifice their right to a jury trial to gain access to quality and affordable healthcare.

If you live in Illinois, please contact Senator Richard Durbin at 312-353-4952 or www.durbin.senate.gov and Senator Roland Burris at 312-886-3506 or www.burris.senate.gov. Outside of Illinois, visit www.senate.gov or call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. An operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

The legal process is long and complex. Throughout this process, we constantly work to bring justice to you and hold all wrongdoers accountable. We are committed to achieving the best possible results for you in the shortest amount of time, while ensuring that justice is served and you are fairly compensated.

Please call or e-mail us anytime with questions.

Very truly yours,
LEVIN & PERCONTI

Handwritten signatures of Steven M. Levin and John J. Perconti. The signature of Steven M. Levin is on the left, and the signature of John J. Perconti is on the right.

Steven M. Levin and John J. Perconti