



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

Letter to the Editor in The Baltimore Sun by Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO

BALTIMORE, February 18, 2020 — In a recent misguided op-ed ([“Maryland has no medical malpractice crisis.”](#) Feb. 11), attorney Ellen Flynn attacks the Infant Lifetime Care Trust by asserting that it would increase rates for “everyone who pays health insurance premiums and by taxpayers who pay for Medicaid and Medicare.” What she conveniently ignores is that under Maryland’s medical rate-setting system the cost of malpractice judgements is already borne by Maryland’s taxpayers. With every new judgment, hospital insurance costs go up. When that happens, medical care becomes more expensive and rates are adjusted to partially offset the higher cost of care.

Arbitrary awards have shaken the hospital insurance market with major insurers exiting Maryland and others dramatically raising rates. Now, hospitals face difficult choices about what programs and services they can – and can’t – afford to offer.

This doesn’t make sense for anyone except the trial lawyers. Plaintiffs lawyers, who typically take about 40% of the total amount awarded to their clients in such cases, want to keep the status quo, which represents a tremendous transfer of wealth from taxpayers to law firms.

All Marylanders should embrace common-sense medical liability reform like the Infant Lifetime Care Trust. Under the plan, infants with birth injuries would receive their care, directed by their own physicians, fully covered for life. And Maryland’s Medicaid system would no longer be responsible for paying the cost of their medical care.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland’s foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

Gene M. Ransom III

CEO MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society

Twitter @generansom email Gransom@medchi.org