



**ILLINOIS STATE
FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

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May 6, 2005

Representative XXXXXX:

With the recent news that leadership is introducing legislation in the Illinois General Assembly that includes limits -- or "caps" -- on victims' compensation for medical malpractice, the men and women of the Illinois AFL-CIO are compelled to action in opposing any and all efforts to curtail the critical consumer right to fair compensation when wronged.

The Illinois AFL-CIO opposes "malpractice caps," which limit compensation for damages for pain, suffering, disability and deformity.

All working families will be adversely affected by such limits because the rights of the injured to a fair hearing in front of a jury of their peers is a bedrock constitutional right and it serves as a crucial balancing factor for an individual against powerful corporations.

Illinois has become a front line in a national crusade by powerful corporate lobbying groups to shift the blame for insurance rate increases to the injured. They want to "cap" the rights of those who suffer an injury through the fault of a medical provider. The only logical end result will be more money for the insurance companies and corporations and fewer rights for the individual.

We have started a campaign which includes communicating with the union families of Illinois on this issue and we will work with coalition allies to not only defeat "caps" but also expose the true culprits of high insurance rates -- the insurance companies. We are committed to helping develop legislation that strengthens health care while protecting our system of justice.

Let me speak plainly, the Illinois AFL-CIO opposes "caps" on the rights of victims. Please consider all voices in this discussion including the working families of this state. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Blackshere
President



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May 10, 2005

Honorable

Springfield IL 62706

On behalf of the 155,000 members of the SEIU Illinois Council I am writing to urge you to oppose legislation in the Illinois General Assembly that includes limits – or “caps” – on victims’ compensation for medical malpractice. The SEIU Illinois Council opposes “malpractice caps,” which limit compensatory damages for pain, suffering, disability and deformity.

Working families in Illinois will be adversely affected by such legislation because it limits the rights of the injured to a fair hearing in front of a jury of their peers by arbitrarily limiting compensation to the injured individuals.

Illinois has become a battleground in the effort by powerful corporate lobbying groups to shift the blame for insurance rate increases to the injured. They want to “cap” their rights. The only logical end result will be more money for the insurance companies and corporations and fewer rights for the individual.

We have begun communicating with SEIU members in Illinois on this issue and we will work with coalition allies to not only defeat “caps” but also expose the true culprits of high insurance rates – the insurance companies. We are committed to crafting legislation that strengthens health care while protecting our system of justice.

Please consider all voices in this discussion including the working families of this state. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Balanoff
President