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April 20, 2017

Letters to the Editor
New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Re: *G.O.P. Bill Would Make Medical Malpractice Suits Harder to Win* (April 15):

Dear Editor:

The Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), a grassroots network of patients and physicians, understands how our broken liability system helps neither.

Meritless lawsuits are the heart of the problem. More than two-thirds of liability claims are dropped, dismissed, or withdrawn, but still waste significant health care and legal resources.

The costs of an inefficient system lead to higher costs for everyone. Our government shoulders the burden as a payor of health care services, and the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that liability reform would achieve \$62 billion in deficit reductions over 10 years.

Fixing the system by mirroring successful state reforms will help reduce costs while providing unlimited compensation for patients' real losses -- medical bills, lost wages, and out-of-pocket expenses.

Medical liability reform legislation recently introduced in Congress won't make it harder to win a legitimate lawsuit, but it will help filter out meritless claims that should never have been brought in the first place—saving time, money, and emotional energy. And that will be a win for both patients and physicians.

Sincerely,

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