

Letters to the Editor

July 23, 2007

Malpractice reform needed

I wish to commend Newsday for the recent article on the medical liability crisis in New York State, especially on Long Island ["Insurance hikes deliver problems," News, July 16]. The Medical Society of the State of New York looks forward to participating with State Insurance Superintendent Eric Dinallo as he impanels a task force to examine the tort and medical malpractice insurance issues. It must address four issues:

- 1) We must stabilize the rising cost of medical malpractice insurance for health care professionals and providers if we are to preserve access to quality health care for all New Yorkers.
- 2) While we absolutely agree that a patient who has been injured by a medical mistake deserves reasonable compensation, we must reform our civil trial process to ensure that the system is expeditious and fair to all litigants.
- 3) We must build a system that fosters and strengthens the sacred bond between patient and physician.
- 4) We must move from a system that focuses on blame to one that focuses on quality improvement and only the best patient outcomes. The medical society, in concert with the American Medical Association, is developing such a quality improvement/best outcomes system through its Quality Patient Care Consortium.

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*Editor's note: **The writer is president of the Medical Society of the State of New York.***