



Editorial Comment

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The presidential primaries are rapidly approaching. For the first time in many election cycles an incumbent, president or vice-president, is not running for elective office. There are many candidates in both parties trying to impress the electorate with their ideas and plans. One thing they may not talk too much about is their position regarding federal tort reform.

Comprehensive federal tort reform remains stalled in the United States Senate. This inaction occurs in spite of several years of medical liability crisis that ultimately affect our patients. As more physicians practices close or become more and more restrictive, patients found themselves with no alternatives for their healthcare. The cost of healthcare is increased by physicians having to practice defensive medicine. Communities end up losing new businesses as companies do not want to relocate to places with limited access to physicians.

Ultimately, federal tort reform must be passed by Congress and signed by a supportive President. It may end up in the United States Supreme Court as it is almost sure that a constitutional challenge will ensue. This is why it is so important to pay attention and participate in the election process. We must speak to our patients so they understand that it is in their best interest to support this needed reform. Our current system does not work and we should continue pressuring for the necessary changes.

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