**Issue #6: Is it Time to Reform Medical Malpractice Litigation?**

In our modern society, medicine has advanced to the point of being able to cure most diseases and ailments, but as in the past risks are of major concern. Every day hundreds of thousands of people are becoming ill and needing medical attention across the globe, most of whom will successfully recover and resume their lives as usual. What happens to those who fall victim to medical malpractice? Should they pay the difference to have the errors corrected, leave it be and attempt to move on, or should they find a lawyer and open a lawsuit. It can be argued that so many lawsuits have been opened that the US has become "sue happy". Today's major debate asks "Is it time to reform medical malpractice litigation?"

Many people and organizations without the country say that, yes, a major reform need to be implemented to correct the current procedure for handling malpractice. Of these organizations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is pushing for a major reform. As Dakota echoed in his representation of the pro-reform argument, the risks and pressures placed on doctors has set the bar higher than ever for perfection. Doctors must pay gross amounts for medical malpractice insurance, which is so high in certain areas that it pushes doctors away. If we reform the malpractice procedures and the threat of a lawsuit is diminished it will promote the growth and maturation of the medical community as a whole.

Firmly planted on the other side of the fence we have Jackson Williams who fights against the necessity to reform. Williams made several very strong arguments throughout the writing, some of which would have the most diehard believers in the necessity of reform questioning their reasoning. John rehashed several arguments made by Williams, the first and most important being that by reforming the litigation procedures the threat of lawsuits would diminish; this will create doctors who are more relaxed in their practices, and possibly raise the frequency of malpractice instances. In addition, the lawsuits not only pay for the malpractice itself, but it recovers a monetary loss which is supposed to refund money lost during recovery, and any losses incurred after the patient has healed. Last but not least, John mentions that most doctors are not locating their practice where they are because of the cost of insurance, they are situated where they are because of location itself. Doctors earn a large paycheck and usually wish to reside in a wealthy area and raise a family in that high-end neighborhood. This shows that the medical field is based more so on self image than on the cost of insurance.

This was a very close debate, both sides fighting to come out on top, but my opinion remains planted where it was before the debate occurred. I believe that a reform definitely needs to be implemented. There should be alternate repercussions for doctors who purposely cut corners or knowingly do wrong, but for the occasional accident that happens, the doctor should not lose so much because of one single slip up. We are all human, and no one is perfect and doctors should not be held to this impossible level either.