



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### DEBATING MALPRACTICE REFORM

#### Doctors must be held responsible for their mistakes

BOTH PRESIDENT Obama and Governor Deval Patrick have fallen into the trap of presenting medical malpractice reform as a way of saving on health-care costs. The Globe fell into this same trap in its Feb. 22 editorial, "Obama, GOP should avoid a standoff on malpractice reform." The focus shouldn't be on closing the courthouse to people who have been injured, because in reality that's simply a mechanism to immunize doctors for their

mistakes and to shift the cost for the care of injured individuals from those responsible for the injuries to, in many instances, the taxpayers. It's bad economics and bad medicine not to hold medical professionals responsible for their mistakes. Our focus should be on eliminating medical errors as a way to improve health care and to reduce medical costs.

KATHLEEN M. O'DONNELL  
*Lowell*

avoid a standoff on malpractice reform," Feb. 22).

The number of malpractice cases filed in Massachusetts has declined in the last five years, and that is not because patient safety has improved. That is because the laws of this state are so tilted toward the caregivers that it is extremely difficult under the current law to prosecute and recover in medical malpractice cases. Today, no one files a frivolous case.

Patient safety should be the goal, not reduced malpractice premiums for caregivers.

FREDERIC N. HALSTRÖM  
*Boston*

#### What about safety?

NOTHING IN your editorial addresses the issue of patient safety ("Obama, GOP should

#### WGBH'S LABOR TENSIONS

#### Station's benefits, pay must change

WHETHER IT'S General Motors, the state of Wisconsin, or WGBH, if labor costs and benefits exceed revenues, the enterprise falls ("Contractual issues; WGBH and

bly align the benefits of union employees with the rest of WGBH's staff are crucial to keeping public television's largest producer afloat.

ROBERT M. KARGMAN  
*Brookline*

WGBH and its 280 CWA union members are definitely not on the same channel," g, Feb. 18). I have supported WGBH for decades, and I appreciate their programming. However, I cannot be part of an organization that disrespects its own workers. Does

## grip; Issue

spokesman said, support for giving authority to raise res-

or should have on the state's con- Legislature has er of liquor licenses individual cities and Those controls e state legislators uly local decisions, ight to be abol-

worthy of aboli- the state's Alco- beverages Control which is under easurer, has final nted by local issu- amstown to Prov-

ication for this a leftover from ose seems to be to ns; last year, the reasurer, Steve es from two liquor e state Demo- helped to fund paign, ke their own deci- ge stores. The