

My name is Howard Schulman, MD. I have been a general internist, adult primary care physician in RI for the past 30 years. I am testifying in favor of H 6210 which would allow physicians to express regret for an unintended medical outcome.

Any malpractice lawyer who oppose this bill is just plain mean.

As things are now, whenever there is a possibility of a lawsuit, physicians are told by their own lawyers to not say anything, which can easily be misinterpreted by patients as hostile and unsympathetic.

Any one of the members of this Committee ever introduce a bill or do anything else that didn't turn out as expected? Did you stonewall the others involved? And if you did, how do you think they would react?

The legal process for determining liability in healthcare is overly cumbersome, protracted, expensive, reliant on highly biased, paid-for so-called expert opinion, and unnecessarily confrontational. Giving physicians a tool to de-escalate difficult situations, what this bill intends to do, is a good thing.

The fear of lawsuits, and hearing about the horror of lawsuits colleagues have gone through, even when the verdict goes for the physician, which it often does, is also just one of the many factors causing physician burnout, physicians leaving the practice of medicine and choosing another profession.

To the lawyers opposing this bill, even lawyers get sick and need healthcare providers here in RI.