Patient Safety v. Medical Malpractice “Reform”
What Every Illinoisan Should Know

More than 1 in 3 patients (34%) report having experienced a medical error within the last two years.
- Journal of the American Medical Association; August 12, 2009

Deaths Caused by Preventable Medical Errors
Preventable medical errors claim as many as 98,000 lives each year in America, an estimated 4,158 just here in Illinois. (Institute of Medicine)

Preventable medical errors are the sixth leading cause of death in America, claiming more lives than murder (16,272), suicide (33,000), drunk driving (11,773), and illegal drug use (15,973) combined. (Federal Bureau of Investigations, Center for Disease Control, National Highway Traffic Safety Association, Office of National Drug Control Policy)

Injuries Caused by Preventable Medical Errors
One in 25 hospital patients is the victim of a preventable medical injury. (U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services)

Approximately 1.3 million Americans are injured each year by medication errors. (Food and Drug Administration)

The Cost of Preventable Medical Errors
Deaths caused by preventable medical errors cost the United States $29 billion each year. (Institute of Medicine)

Injuries due to medication errors increase health care costs by $3.5 billion per year. (Institute of Medicine)

Preventable hospital infections increase health care costs by $4.5 billion per year. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

Preventable post-surgical infections increase health care costs by $1.5 billion per year. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Robert Langreth, Fixing Health Care, Forbes, June 20, 2006)