

Jo Ann Pfirman
2226 Trellis Green
Cary, NC 27518

February 9, 2011

Senator Richard Stevens
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 309
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Stevens:

It is my understanding that you are one of the sponsors of Senate Bill 33, which will put an arbitrary cap of \$250,000 on damages in medical malpractice cases.

My husband, Tom, died in an assisted living facility. He strangled to death in a bedrail. He died a horrible, excruciating death, all due to the negligence of many of the health care providers who were responsible for ensuring his safety. I can't imagine the horror that Tom experienced as he was trapped in the bedrail, unable to save himself from certain death.

I found out that the assisted living facility where Tom resided should have been closed because of repeated violations of North Carolina laws. A loophole in the law allowed the owners to simply change the name and reopen.

Although there is no amount of money that could have brought Tom back, it makes no sense for the legislature to place an arbitrary limit on the value of Tom's suffering or the value of my loss.

I hope that you will reconsider this Bill.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Pfirman

cc: North Carolina Senators