

Kym Brown
474 Lake Rugby Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28791
February 9, 2011

Senator Tom Apodaca
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2010
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Apodaca:

I understand you are one of the sponsors of a bill to limit compensation to victims of medical malpractice. As a recent survivor, I ask you to consider the harm that will be done if this bill is passed.

Two years ago, at age 48, I was healthy and active. I biked 100 miles a week and worked out almost every day. In June 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After receiving that stunning news, I began the fight of my life. I had more diagnostic tests and was told that the cancer in my left breast was invasive and there were also concerns with my right breast. I did weeks of research, obtained second and third opinions, and asked hundreds of questions. Finally, my surgeon and I decided on bilateral total mastectomies.

Both of my breasts were removed. Several days after I returned home, I received a call from my physician's nurse saying that I needed to come in. This was an unexpected call, so of course I was scared. When I got there my doctor informed me that a "mistake" had been made and they were sorry. I was told that I never had cancer. "We're trying to figure out what happened, but there was a mistake".

At a second meeting with my doctor, I was told that the doctor who examined my biopsy slides was also handling those of another woman at the same time. Although they correctly interpreted both my slides and those of the other woman, they dictated my results into the other woman's chart, and hers into mine. The other woman, who actually did have cancer, did not find out until after my surgery nearly two months later.

This kind of "mistake" should never happen. Every day I have to look at the damage that was done to me because someone else didn't take the time to do their job properly.

I find it hard to believe that you or any other senator would consider \$250,000 to be adequate compensation for what I have lost. Why are you rewarding those who are careless, and punishing those who are harmed?

Sincerely,



Kym Brown