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Medical Malpractice

As a student studying biology with the goal of becoming a doctor one day, I have a unique opinion on topics regarding medical malpractice. I believe that there should be a limit on how much a person can sue a doctor for medical malpractice. I think it should be a sliding scale based on how poorly a doctor executed treatment and how large the deficit is to the patient or patient's family. In addition, I believe there should be a limit based on the doctor's net worth, and a good number for this in my opinion would be around 15% maximum. If the harm that is done to the patient is deemed inexcusable by a selected group of multiple doctors, then a trial should occur for the removal of the doctor's medical license. If there is a limit on how much a patient or patient's family can sue a doctor for, it will discourage individuals who are just suing the doctor to seek financial gain rather than peace of mind.

Many people who sue doctors for medical malpractice assume that the doctors they are suing are beyond rich, and that is why many people do not have a problem attempting to sue doctors for malpractice, whether they are in the right or not. However, due to high student loans and low wages during residency, many doctors are not as wealthy as people may think. A limit to how much a doctor can be sued for medical malpractice would also protect doctors from becoming bankrupt. This may seem like a non-issue to some, but since there is a shortage of individuals who are gen z or millennials wanting to become doctors, this could help encourage more young people to look into the medical field as aspiring doctors. It is also important that young people wanting to become doctors are not afraid that medical malpractice suits will ruin

their lives because the majority of doctors face malpractice suits at some point in their careers, and it can be something that may cause young people to stray from a career in medicine.

With this being said, I do however believe that malpractice suits can be helpful in certain ways. An example is that during the opioid epidemic, many doctors would prescribe opioids to patients who were looking for drugs in order to make people happy, provide a quick-fix, and make more money. This however usually leads to extremely bad outcomes such as addiction, overdosing, more drugs sold on the black market, and even death. Medical malpractice suits could have helped some of these doctors learn from their mistakes and stop doing this. In this case, malpractice suits could have saved many lives. However, I don't believe that the amount that the doctor in a case like this is sued for should be so high that the doctor goes bankrupt, because in my opinion, this is more of a learning lesson for the doctor rather than a life-altering experience. So I believe that it is important to find balance in issues such as medical malpractice because there are both positive and negative sides to this issue. It is important to understand both the pros and cons of issues such as these before making a decision on how you believe laws or rules surrounding these issues should be made.