

Docs become Mr. Hydes as lobbyists --

By LARRY DAUGHTREY –The Tennessean ~ April 23, 2006

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Here is an excerpt from a newspaper article on a weekly lobbying campaign by physicians in Tennessee. They were hoping to get changes in the law that would have benefited the med-mal carriers and supposedly reduced their premiums. Apparently med-mal companies make money by investing the premiums in the stock market that are left over after they pay out the annual claims.

Excerpt:

“Was there a crisis to begin with? State regulators didn't think so. A little-noticed report for the year 2004, issued last October, had some startling findings.

During that year, **only six medical malpractice cases reached juries in Tennessee**, with **awards totaling \$1.9 million**. Insurance companies **settled 444 before trial** at a cost of \$108 million, with **an average settlement of \$45,904**.

Insurance **premiums charged that year totaled \$327 million**.

The dominant medical **malpractice insurance firm in Tennessee is a mutual company owned by the doctors themselves, meaning that it returns dividends to its members**. It has **\$765 million in reserves**. Tennessee ranks in the lowest third of the states in malpractice premiums.”

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Editor's Note: Apparently having us all to be hysterical about a malpractice “crisis” is good for business. Of course, this is the best argument for a national ‘no fault’ fund for parents whose baby is diagnosed in the first 6 months of life with profound and permanent neurological damage, irrespective of any necessity to prove causation.
