



JUN 16 2014

Michael Carome, M.D.  
Director  
Public Citizen's Health Research Group  
1600 20<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Carome:

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary and me advocating that the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) put forth a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to amend the current medical malpractice payment reporting regulations. I appreciate the extensive research and thought that went into writing this petition. You raise a pertinent concern at a time when the changing landscape of medical malpractice is having an increased effect on reporting to the NPDB.

As shared in your letter, the Public Citizen views the use of the "corporate shield" loophole as avoiding the reporting of negligent practitioners to the NPDB. Please be assured that the Health Resources and Services Administration regularly considers all options available to improve reporting into the NPDB with the goal of improving patient safety.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this important issue to me. I appreciate your continued support of the NPDB and your commitment to protecting patient safety. I will also provide this response to Dr. Sidney Wolf, Mr. Alan Levine, and Dr. Robert Oshel.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.  
Administrator