



Supporting Healing.
Restoring Hope.

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Boston, Massachusetts
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I've been a patient at the "sharp end" of an adverse medical event – one that nearly took my life – and I know that I was lucky to have survived. My experience made me extremely aware of the lack of emotional support in place for patients, families, and care providers following these incidents. I also saw how profound the inadequacies are in both the medical and legal systems in dealing with medical injuries.

The MITSS mission is to "Support Healing and Restore Hope" to patients, families, and clinicians following adverse medical events. In order to achieve our mission, we create awareness and provide education about the devastating emotional impact of adverse medical events; provide direct support services to patients, families, and clinicians; and, advocate for action. We promote disclosure, apology, and support following unexpected medical outcomes, and we encourage healthcare institutions to develop infrastructures to provide peer support systems.

I believe that the legal system is in great need of improvement in terms of its response to individuals and families who are dealing with adverse medical events. Ideally, the legal system would be less adversarial, and would facilitate rather than impede advances in patient safety at the institutional level. I'm delighted to see that Senators Enzi and Baucus and Representatives Thornberry and Cooper have taken the lead with legislation to promote innovative new mechanisms in the legal system for dealing with medical injuries, and I hope that the Congress will act on this legislation. Federal support for pilot programs at the state level has great potential to show the way forward to future reforms that can benefit patients, families, health care providers, and the system as a whole.

MITSS is a non-profit corporation headquartered in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, whose mission is "To Support Healing and Restore Hope" to patients, families, and clinicians who have been affected by adverse medical events.

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