

Letter to the Editor
Daily Journal
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I read with interest Lisa Maas's letter to the editor regarding the Aug. 4 story "Plotting a Fresh Attack on Damage Caps."

Maas, executive director of Californians Allied for Patient Protection (CAPP), an industry advocacy group and political action committee, presents numerous "facts" regarding the success of MICRA. There are more facts that must be told regarding Maas' organization, which raises the question of who her group actually is protecting. Within the last several years, CAPP has received \$1.3 million for its political campaign to maintain the MICRA caps.

That money has come from a Chamber of Commerce-related group (\$75,000); the dentists' lobby (\$78,500); hospital associations (\$59,700); an alcohol Interest (\$10,000); nursing home interests (\$27,500); big Pharma (\$25,000); physician advocacy groups (\$363,300); and, most importantly, the insurance industry.

Insurance companies provided more than half the money, in excess of \$700,000.

Interestingly, the \$1.3 million in contributions to maintain caps on non-economic damages in medical malpractices is less than half of what the insurance industry saved by the reduction of one jury verdict in the Merced County Case that was the subject of the Daily Journal's Aug. 4 story.

I ask you, does Californians Allied for Patient Protection protect patients or the insurance industry?

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