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**REPORT: HEALTHCARE IS BETTER IN STATES WITHOUT BARRIERS TO
JUSTICE**

We've all heard the argument made by the insurance companies and medical industry: so-called tort "reform" leads to better healthcare. This is the line that the insurance and medical industries have been pushing in states all across the country.

Well, guess what? It ain't so.

The truth is that patients in states with arbitrary restrictions on their access to the legal accountability system are more likely to have worse overall healthcare.

Using the non-profit Commonwealth Fund's independent ranking of state health system performance, access, and quality, Texas Watch compared states that restrict patient access to the courthouse with those that do not. In every category, it is clear that patients in states that restrict patients' legal rights fare worse than those in states that allow patients to hold wrongdoers accountable.

Here are the key findings:

- 69% of states with poorest overall health system performance (bottom quartile) limit patient access to the courts
- 79% of states with the worst access to healthcare limit patient access to the courts
- 84% of states with the poorest quality of care limit patient access to the courts

Special interests continue to applaud Texas as a model for the nation when it comes to imposing restrictions on patients' legal rights. Sadly for Texas patients, the plaudits are misplaced. More than four years after the passage of patient restrictions on access to the legal system, Texas health care continues to suffer. Texas ranks 49th in overall health system performance, 46th in healthcare quality, and 51st – dead last – in patient access to healthcare.

To read the full report, click here: www.TexasWatch.org/TW/docDownload/11934.

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