

1. Would you support or oppose a No-Fault Birth Injury Fund, to deny brain-injured babies and children their right to hold negligent hospitals and health care providers responsible for the consequences of their malpractice?

During my career I have worked with competing sides on issues to help them reach consensus, and I would hope that something similar would happen in this instance. I will commit to working with both sides of this issue to see if a consensus can be reached.

2. Would you support or oppose allowing juries to be informed about the existence of the non-economic damages cap before they begin their deliberations?

Generally, my legislative impulse is to be on the side of disclosure when it comes to government operations, including the judicial branch. A better informed jury is a better jury.

3. Would you support or oppose raising the “death cap” in medical negligence cases, so that it is fairer to individual members of larger families?

I would support raising the cap on medical negligence cases.

4. Would you support or oppose “apology laws” that allow hospitals to exploit malpractice victims and their families?

I support current Maryland law, Md. Code. Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. Sec. 10-920. Again, I would hope that a consensus can be reached on this issue.

5. When called upon to support or oppose a bill that impacts the legal rights of injured patients, would you generally favor protecting health care providers from responsibility for the consequences of malpractice, or favor protecting the civil rights of injured patients?

I would favor taking the side of protecting the civil rights of patients.

6. Would you support or oppose legislation that grants immunity from civil liability to a politically powerful or popular constituency, thereby closing the courthouse doors to the victims of negligent or careless conduct?

No, I don't support legislation granting blanket immunity from civil liability.

7. Would you support or oppose legislation to replace Maryland's contributory negligence law with comparative Negligence?

No, I have consistently opposed replacing Maryland's contributory negligence law.

8. Would you support or oppose a legislative proposal that would allow a worker to collect “temporary partial” disability benefits when the worker was able to return to work with a different employer in a limited capacity while still recovering from the work-related injury?

Today, when the safety net is shrinking and many are living paycheck to paycheck, allowing someone willing to work hard partial disability benefits on a temporary basis

does more good than harm. I would support legislation allowing a worker to collect the disability benefits in this situation.

9. Would you support or oppose a legislative proposal that would require the Subsequent Injury Fund to fulfill its obligation to the Employer and the injured worker as ordered by the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission even upon the death of the injured worker?

I supported HB 1500 this session, which strengthens the SIF, allowing it to fulfill its obligations, even upon the death of an injured worker.

10. Would you support or oppose a legislative proposal that would alter the medical billing procedure to allow for the payment of a medical bill as long as the medical bill was presented for payment to the correct insurer within three years of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission ruling that the underlying medical treatment provided to the injured worker was necessary, reasonable and causally connected to the injured worker's claim?

I'm inclined to support a legislative proposal to improve the medical billing procedures related to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission. I would commit to participating in a process of coming up with a consensus way forward to satisfy all parties.

11. Would you support or oppose a legislative proposal that would define correctional officers as "public safety employees?"

I voted for House Bill 205 (2018), which would define correctional officers as "public safety employees."

12. Would you support a Dram Shop law to hold restaurant owners or bars responsible when they serve alcohol to individuals who are visibly intoxicated when it is reasonably foreseeable that the customer will drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle after consuming the alcohol?

I would support a Dram Shop law but a consensus process with the interested parties should take place to come up with a specific solution for Maryland.

13. Would you support legislation to relax Maryland's restrictive punitive damages standard from "actual malice" to a more common standard widely applied by other states to punish and deter corporations that disregard public safety in the name of profits?

The House Workgroup on Punitive Damages released its final report in February 2017 and could not come to a consensus on a recommendation. More consensus building is needed to find a solution. The lack of consensus by legislative staff goes to show that parties need to be more closely involved in any process going forward to change the law in this area.