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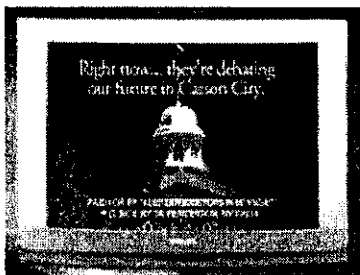
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New Keep Our Doctors In Nevada Campaign Ads



People behind the Keep Our Doctors In Nevada campaign will be making a big push for your support this week. Starting today, new ads will be running on TV, in hopes of drumming up support for local doctors. *News 3's Stacey Escalante* reports these ads are coming out at a time when medical malpractice is a hot topic up at the state legislature.

On Thursday testimony will be heard on Senate Bill 97 which deals with putting a 350,000 dollar cap on pain and suffering awards. Tomorrow, state lawmakers will talk about Senate Bill 122 which deals with insurance reform. In the meantime, two new ads from the Keep Our Doctors In Nevada campaign will start running tonight.

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One of the familiar faces you may recognize in the spots is Nicole from Sunny 106.5. Now at home with her 8 week old daughter, she had trouble finding a doctor last April. Nicole testified in front of the legislature last week. She admits that she would've been horrified if doctors made a mistake delivering her baby, but still believes in a cap on pain and suffering when it comes to malpractice jury awards.

"As a new mother, I would be devastated if something happened to my baby, but given the alternative of a mass exodus of doctors, I'm willing to take that risk. Again, we're just talking about the cap on pain and suffering not talking about the injury and the award they'd receive for the injury."

On Thursday, the debate over tort reform will be heard. Tomorrow's debate deals with insurance reform. That bill is sponsored by Senator Dina Titus.

The bill includes several new provisions. One is that if an insurance company decides to pull out, they have to submit a plan to withdrawal and must give 120 days notice to prevent what happened when St. Paul pulled out.

It's important to note that attorneys we've talked to say capping pain and suffering limits a patient's access to the courts because attorneys are less likely to take those cases. We'll be hearing more from both sides of the issue on Thursday in Carson City when Senate Bill 97 is heard.

3/13/2003

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