

January 27, 2017

The Honorable (XXXX)  
House of Representatives  
Georgia State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Protecting patient rights in health care

Dear Mr. XXXXX,

My name is Nancy Stead, MD, and I am a retired physician living in Gainesville, Georgia. I am writing today as a concerned citizen about patient rights and protection in the healthcare system as it exists today. From a more than 40-year career in medicine, I know that patients are not fully aware of their healthcare rights, which is why I have created a website, [steadfasthealthcare.com](http://steadfasthealthcare.com), to help them acquire the knowledge necessary to be effective advocates for themselves.

Now provider turned patient, I have had personal experiences that cause me great concern with our current healthcare system. My main concerns being that:

- Patient consent forms for procedures are written in legal jargon and not at a sixth to eighth grade reading level as discharge directions are at present. I am concerned patients have no idea what they are signing.
- Patients should have a role in confirming the legitimacy of their healthcare record, both to maintain the accuracy of his or her medical record and payments thereby rendered.

Thank you for the consideration of my request to create legislation that would address these deficiencies and provide protection to patients, and their rights, in the state of Georgia. I am happy to serve as a resource or answer any questions you may have or feel free to learn more by reading my blog on my website.

Sincerely,  
(sign your name)

Nancy Stead, MD  
Email | phone  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip