



# Spotlight On Justice



## Lies About Malpractice and Access to Healthcare

In 2003, Texas voters passed a constitutional amendment that severely limited compensation to Texas patients killed or injured by medical malpractice.

Here's what the *Texas Observer* found four years later:

“Perhaps the most insidious sleight of hand employed by Proposition 12 backers was their repeated insistence that medical malpractice insurance rates were somehow responsible for doctor shortages in rural Texas....



As of September 2007, the number of counties without obstetricians is unchanged—152 counties still have none....

Nearly half of Texas counties—124, or 49 percent—have no obstetrician, neurosurgeon, or orthopedic surgeon. Those specialists aside, 21 Texas counties have no physician of any kind. That's one county worse than before Proposition 12 passed, when 20 counties had no doctor.”

Source:

Suzanne Batchelor, “Baby, I Lied; Rural Texas is still waiting for the doctors tort reform was supposed to deliver”, *Texas Observer*, October 19, 2007

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