

Standard of Care

From the Office of
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Yesterday I compared hospitals to tire shops. A well-run tire shop is important to your health and safety just like a hospital.

Tire shops have the freedom to do the best job for their customers.

Have you heard the term “Standard of Care?” It is a term used uniquely in medicine identifying the recommended treatment for a particular condition.

Doctors who deviate from the “Standard of Care” – or even speak up against practices they feel are unwise – risk losing their licenses. This severely restricts what a doctor dares to do.

Sure, some things are well understood. Tire shops know what torque to use on your lug bolts. That’s been worked out long ago. The treatment for a simple broken leg is fairly well understood too.

But people are complicated. Medicine is complicated and only slightly understood. It takes years of dedication and study to become a doctor or surgeon. Doctors are historically one of the most respected and trusted professions.

Which would you rather have:

A doctor performing the standard of care? For many conditions, that works well.

Or would you prefer a doctor with the freedom to try new things in complicated cases, to use his skill and experience to modify the treatments as he sees fit?

I know what I would prefer. I am for freedom.

Our laws should allow both.