

From Seattle Times online letters:

Healthy, wealthy and wise

While I commend guest columnist Risa Lavizzo-Mourey for educating us on the complexities that underlie our health-care crisis [”More health care is not necessarily better care,” guest column, Nov. 13], it is with great irony that I note one leg of her three-legged stool for health-care quality is based on public reporting.

She explains that, with the help of the Puget Sound Health Alliance, the Seattle area is at the forefront in dealing with the three fundamental issues of health care: public reporting, quality improvement and consumer engagement.

However, a quick Internet search reveals that a major participating organization in the Puget Sound Health Alliance is the Washington State Hospital Association. This is the same group that conveniently slipped a provision into a health-care bill that ended the requirement for hospitals to publicly disclose certain medical errors.

While the association has recently claimed to have changed its views on the disclosure issue, perhaps Ms. Lavizzo-Mourey was able to use her time here in Seattle to remind Washington’s hospitals of the need for transparency.

- Dylan Higgins, SeattleVoter with a vision