

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Doctor Welcomes State Oversight

I CONSIDER MYSELF a well-educated New Mexico doctor of Oriental medicine, with at least seven years of training in science, research, public health, acupuncture techniques and Chinese herbal medicine prescription as well as 10 years of clinical experience. However, I am not well educated in the field of intravenous naturopathic techniques or the prescription of 99 percent of the substances in the New Mexico doctor of Oriental medicine expanded practice formulary.

I, for one, welcome the involvement of licensed pharmacists and the state Board of Pharmacy in helping our Board of Acupuncture and

Oriental Medicine determine the safety of these substances and techniques for the public. Most New Mexico doctors of Oriental medicine and the professional members of our regulatory board have a similar education and experience level to myself, and I can only assume that they also welcome this expertise to help make these important decisions.

None of us wants to compromise the safety of our communities, and many of us do not want modern experimental techniques sheltering under our millennia-long tradition of evidence-based Asian and Chinese medicine.

NIITYAMO LIAN  
Albuquerque

## Protective Orders Need Review

I WONDERED WHY the domestic violence information disappeared from the New Mexico court's website. Thank you for clearing this up.

As one involved in several of these hearings, I wish to raise one critical point absent from the article; specifically those found innocent of domestic violence were also listed on the site. The most famous example being talk show host David Letterman, against whom a Santa Fe woman filed for a protective order based on Mr. Letterman's alleged psychic attacks against her.

If may also be time for the press to turn its attention to the process itself...

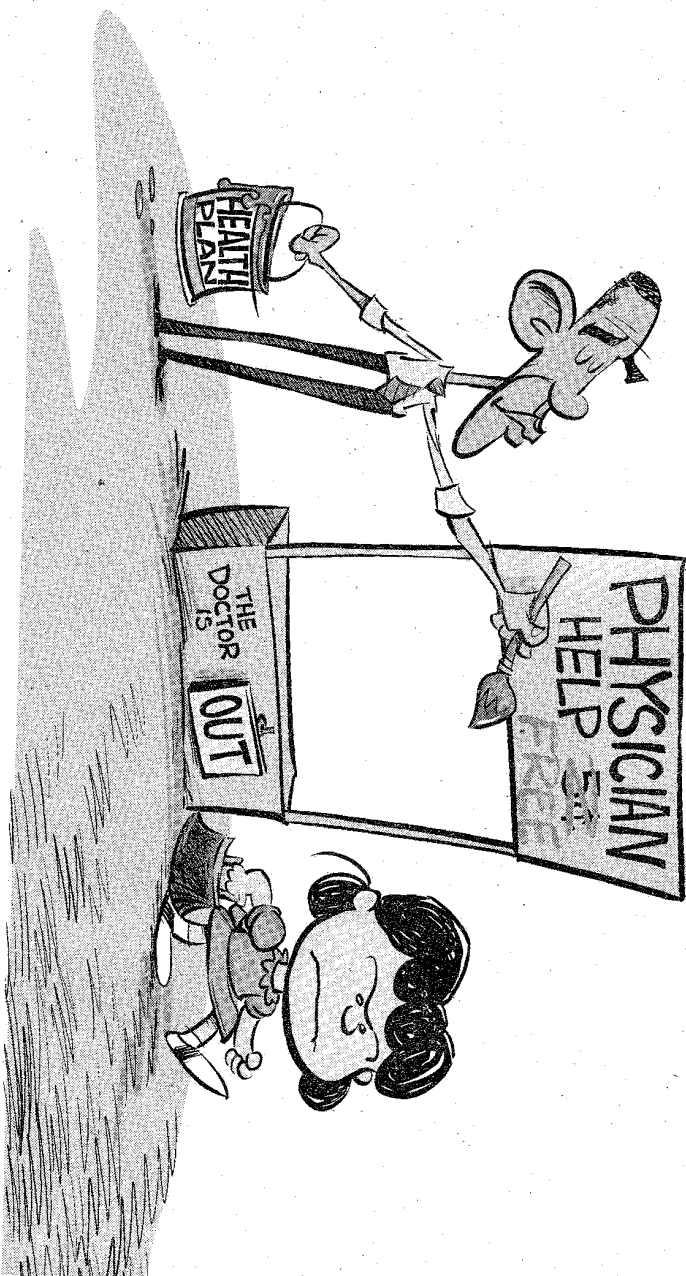
After (NYFD) removed our children from the care of their

mother, their mother went down to the courthouse and received a temporary order of protection ordering me to return the children to her. Before it was tossed out, I spent a few weeks dodging deputies attempting to serve the order.

It is also critical to remember the article addressed civil orders for protection and not those associated with criminal domestic violence cases. The standards of proof are considerably less in the civil actions. Recent studies provide evidence that men actually are now filing for more of these orders of protection than women.

STEPHEN A. AVERY  
Albuquerque

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# Cuts Will Hurt Cancer Care

By **DR. VICTOR V. VIGN**  
*Hematology Oncology Associates*

President Obama has announced a plan to cut hundreds of billions from Medicare over the next decade to reduce federal spending on health care. While we agree that cost cutting is important, we want to provide information regarding the reality of what will occur if payment for life-saving chemotherapy is further reduced.

Cancer care is broken, even though 45 percent of all cancer patients rely on it for their care. In fact, the cancer care delivery system is already in jeopardy due to cuts in Medicare over the past two years and the lowered payment for chemotherapy drugs and administration of those drugs by oncologists.

The Medicare cuts have now reached the point where cancer care providers may

staff cuts and some already have been forced to close facilities, especially in rural areas.

If further Medicare cuts are made, our cancer care delivery system will be faced with not being able to give critical medicines to cancer patients, especially our seniors. The math is simple — if oncology practices are paid below our costs, we cannot stay in business to treat our patients. Most oncologists would rather focus on taking care of patients and not deal with the multiple layers of paperwork and bureaucracy involved in health care. It is walking into an exam room and seeing someone who needs our expertise and advice that keeps us going, even day despite our 50 to