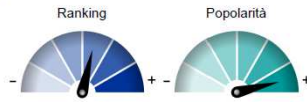


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**HEALTH CARE REFORM, DOCTORS AND PATIENTS**

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Left, Hon. Federico Gelli and Mr. Fabrizio Iseni

It costs ten billion euro a year the "defensive medicine" in Italy. This is the amount of medical tests that doctors are forced to prescribe to protect themselves against legal action of their patients who say they have been damaged by treatment. Legal actions against doctors in Italy are growing, and there are many law firms specialized in these activities. The Italian Parliament is launching an essential reform to stop these lawsuits. This is the reform about the "professional liability of physicians and clinical risk": the doctor that causes injury or death of the patient is liable only for gross negligence. In practice, the physician is assured serenity to act according to conscience and responsibility, without the threat of

legal retaliation patient who claims to have been damaged. In cases where medical causes injury through negligence, the legal action against him is inevitable, but if the doctor works with professional conscience and thus with expertise will not be prosecuted.

The reform was presented yesterday night in Briga Novarese (Novara) by Hon. Federico Gelli, member of the Commission of Social Affairs of the Chamber, Senator Amedeo Bianco Member of the Committee on Health of the Senate, Undersecretary of State Cosimo Ferri (Justice), Undersecretary of State Franca Biondelli (Labour). "The reform will be approved before summer" assured Mr Gelli. "A reform that gives more guarantees to doctors but, at the same time, allows citizens who have been really damaged quickly compensation" said Senator Bianco and Undersecretary Ferri. The event was coordinated by Senator Antonio Tomassini and Undersecretary of State Biondelli. Among the representatives of the "health world", was present Mr. Fabrizio Iseni, president of Iseni Foundation and Istituti di Ricovero e Cura Gruppo Iseni Sanità.

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