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*"The safety of the people  
is the highest law"*

-CICERO

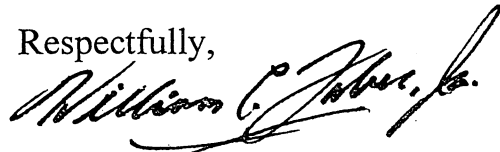
## Heart Stent Procedure Overused, Experts Say

Every year more than a half a million patients undergo a procedure that places a small mesh tube (stent) into a coronary artery. Its purpose is to keep the artery open so blood can flow.

Studies issued by the American Medical Assn. and the Joint Commission (it accredits and certifies 21,000 health care organizations) show that stents are overused. Stents continue to be implanted in patients who stand little, if any, benefit. 1 in 10 elective stent procedures may be "inappropriate" and another third questionable.

The stent procedure is called an angioplasty. Its typical cost is about \$30,000. While the procedure can save the life of a person having a heart attack, when offered as an elective procedure its use may be questioned. *So get a second opinion.* I thought this information might be helpful.

Respectfully,



William C. Faber, Jr.