



The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill S.5493/A. _____ (Griffo/ _____) Provides for the Identification of Health Professionals

The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. ("NYSSA") is medical society consisting of approximately 3,550 physicians specializing in the field of anesthesiology. NYSSA is an organization of physicians and scientists dedicated to advancing the specialty of anesthesiology and providing the safest and highest quality patient care to the citizens of New York State. **NYSSA strongly supports S.5493 (Griffo)/A. _____ (_____)** which ensures appropriate identification of all health professionals in their one-on-one interaction with patients and in their advertisements to the public.

Specifically, the legislation amends state's education law to require that an advertisement for health care services that names a health care practitioner must identify the type of license by that health care professional and requires that advertisements shall be free from any and all deceptive or misleading information. NYSSA believes that, as contemplated in this legislation, a prohibition on physicians from holding oneself out to the public in any manner as being certified by a public or private board including, but not limited to, a multidisciplinary board or "board certified" unless all of the advertisement states the full name of the certifying board and the board either: is a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or requires successful completion of a postgraduate training program approved by the Accreditation Commission for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the AOA that provides complete training in the specialty or subspecialty certified, followed by prerequisite certification by the ABMS or AOA board for that training field and further successful completion of examination in the specialty or subspecialty certified – is critically needed for consumers of medical services.

The membership of NYSSA strongly believes that transparency is critical to educating medical consumers and supports provisions in this bill which would require a health care practitioner providing health care services in this state to conspicuously post and affirmatively communicate the practitioner's specific licensure as defined under this section and specifies that this shall consist of the following: (1) the health care practitioner shall wear a photo identification name tag during all patient encounters that shall include (i) the employee's name; (ii) large bold lettering which specifies the type of license held by the practitioner; and (iii) the expiration date of the license (the name tag shall be of sufficient size and be worn in a conspicuous manner so as to be visible and apparent); and (2) the health care practitioner shall display in his or her office a writing that clearly identified the type of license held by the health care practitioner (the writing shall be of sufficient size so as to be visible and apparent to all current and prospective patients).

For the aforementioned reasons, NYSSA urges the New York State Legislature to pass this legislation.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

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