

**MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
of the  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**

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*Division of Governmental Affairs*

**MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**

**ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR**

**A.1615 (PERRY)**

**IN SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**S.213 (PERSAUD)**

**AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation requiring physicians and hospitals to obtain the name of the school attended by school-aged patients and to include this information in their admission registration forms**

This legislation would amend the public health law to require physicians and hospitals in New York City to obtain the name of the school attended by school-aged patients and to include this information in their admission registration forms. **The Medical Society of the State of New York opposes this legislation.**

While the intent of this legislation is laudable, it would impose yet another unfunded mandate on already overstressed physician offices seeking to assure patients receive needed care amid the myriad of requirements already imposed by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurers, as well as other state mandates. These increasing mandates take more and more time away from the ability to deliver the timely care patients expect to receive. This trend is well documented. Indeed, a recent study reported in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* concluded, remarkably, that for every one hour of patient care delivered by a physician, two more must be spent on paperwork. Moreover, these overwhelming paperwork demands is one of the major factors contributing to a significant increase in physicians reporting symptoms of "burnout", as noted by a recent study from the American Medical Association of over 10,000 health caregivers that found that 52% reported at least some symptoms of burnout, with 16% reporting symptoms that won't go away.

Furthermore, we are concerned that this requirement would potentially subject countless physicians to unnecessary state sanction who do not regularly treat pediatric patients as part of their patient population, who would not be routinely asking for school information on their intake forms. Additionally, the bill is of questionable necessity. New York Public Health Law Section 2101 already requires physicians to report immediately to the local health officer regarding the presence of any communicable disease. The health officer is then charged with the responsibility to investigate cases of communicable disease, to ascertain sources of infection, to seek out contacts, and to take other steps to reduce the spread of the disease. Imposing new paperwork requirements will only create further delays and roadblocks to patients receiving the care they need.

**For all of the reasons stated above, we urge that this measure be defeated.**

1/29/21  
MMA - oppose

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**