

MEDICAL SOCIETY of the STATE OF NEW YORK

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**ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR
(Cal. #254)**

Division of Governmental Affairs

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

A.6023 (PERRY)

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 2016 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 that is causing physicians to feel compelled to leave private practice to become employed in a large health system, which can threaten the continuity of existing physician-patient relationships. 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, and thereby would not routinely ask 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.

At a time when we are seeking to assure that the hundreds of thousands of patients who have newly received health insurance coverage are truly able to receive needed care, imposing new paperwork requirements will only create further delays and roadblocks to patients receiving the care they need.

Based on the foregoing, the Medical Society of the State of New York opposes this legislation and urges that it be defeated.

Respectfully submitted,

5/3/19
MMA - oppose

MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS