

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

Elizabeth Dears, Esq.
Senior Vice President /
Chief Legislative Counsel

Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

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A.5961 (KAVANAUGH)

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law and the labor law, in relation to the duties of skiers and snowboarders

This measure would require that children under the age of eighteen years of age wear a protective helmet while skiing or snowboarding. The bill also requires that ski area operators conspicuously post signs that advise customers of the New York State law requiring skiers and snowboarders under eighteen to wear protective headgear. Ski-area operators would be required to offer for sale or rental protective headgear that meets the set standards and prohibit any skier or snowboarder under eighteen who is not wearing protective headgear from skiing or snowboarding. They would also be required to make available, at reasonable fees, instruction and education for skiers on the risks inherent in the sport and duties prescribed for skiers and to post notice of the times and places of this instruction and education. **The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this bill.**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that there were 84,000 skiing injuries (including 17,000 head injuries) treated in U.S. emergency rooms in 2010. The CPSC also estimated that 2,600 of the head injuries that occurred in children could have been prevented if they had been wearing a helmet.

The Medical Society of the State of New York adopted policy in 2006 supporting the use of helmets in skiing and snowboarding.

For the reasons above, **the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this bill and urges that it be passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH DEARS, ESQ.

**6/9/15 - Support
BKE**