



## **MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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### **Statement Attributable to: Paul A. Pipia, MD President, Medical Society of the State of New York**

"The physicians of New York State are once again sincerely grateful to Governor Hochul for her veto of legislation that would have greatly expanded the awards in actions for wrongful death. Governor Hochul has stood by the concerns she has previously noted regarding the significant unintended consequences of this far-reaching, expansive legislation, particularly for our already struggling health care system, without balanced provisions to bring down New York's exorbitant liability insurance costs for physicians. We agree with the Governor in her veto message that: "Every human life is valuable and should be recognized as such in our laws and in our judicial system". We also applaud the Governor for noting that: " Legitimate concerns have been raised that the bill would likely lead to increased insurance premiums for the vast majority of consumers, as well as risk the financial well-being of our health care facilities – most notably, for public hospitals that serve disadvantaged communities."

"MSSNY stands ready to work with the Governor and the Legislature on revised legislation that would ensure legal remedies for grieving families, but at the same time protect the ability of New York's physicians, hospitals, and other health care workers to continue to deliver the care our patients expect and deserve. We cannot do that if we substantially increase our already enormous liability insurance costs, which already exponentially exceed every other state in the country. These costs would disproportionately impact physicians working in underserved communities.

"New York has a reputation for a world class healthcare system, but also a reputation for being one of the worst states in the country in which to be a physician. We must take steps to ensure that we can retain and attract skilled physicians to our state to best serve the healthcare needs of our patients.

"Again, we thank Governor Hochul for putting patients first and protecting the healthcare needs of every New Yorker by calling for a more scaled back version of this legislation."