

What to Say When Calling the Governor About the Latest Version of the “Grieving Families Act” (S4423/A6063)

Thank you, Governor, for your vetoes of previous versions of the Grieving Families Act. I ask you again to veto the latest version.

- There is again a need for this bill to be significantly revised/re-drafted to provide balance so that it does not exacerbate the already significant access to care challenges our patients face.
- The latest version is only marginally different than the legislation the Governor previously vetoed three times.
- The new version would still exponentially expand damages awardable in a wrongful death action.
- The inclusion of non-economic damages under this bill is why studies have shown it would lead to a nearly 40% premium cost increase. This undoubtedly will have an enormously disruptive impact on our already stressed healthcare system, considering that New York physicians and hospitals already face by far and away the highest medical liability insurance costs in the country.
- The Governor has fought for substantial investments in the State Budget to help address the financial challenges facing our hospitals and community-based providers. However, this bill would completely undo these positive investments that had been allocated to protect the stability of our healthcare safety net.
- The physician community stands ready to work with all parties on a revised bill to ensure legal remedies for grieving families, but at the same time protect the ability of New York’s physicians, hospitals, and health care workers to deliver the care our patients expect and deserve.
- Again, this bill must be vetoed and re-drafted to include provisions to reduce New York’s excessive liability costs. Otherwise, our already challenging access to care problems will be made far worse.
- Thank you for your time.