



**Governor Hochul's Office #: 518-474-8390, press option 1, to urge that she veto this legislation**

### **Return of the "Grieving Families Act" (A.6698/S.6636) Talking Points**

- I am urging that the new version of the Grieving Families Act be vetoed, and then be re-written in a way that will protect our patients' continued access to our healthcare system.
- The new bill is only marginally different than the legislation the Governor vetoed earlier this year, which she vetoed because of the huge potential adverse impact to our health care system.
- 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 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.