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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR FAMILY HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT**

(New York, NY) The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY") today announced its strong support for the proposed New York Family Health Care Decisions Act. A form of the Act, which would enable family members and other loved ones in the State of New York to make health treatment decisions for patients no longer able to make decisions for themselves, was first introduced to New York State Legislature in 1994, but has never been signed into law.

According to WBASNY, the currently proposed bill provides an effective balance between adequate protections for an incapacitated patient and the empowerment of a surrogate to help prevent inappropriate decisions, particularly in cases where wishes of the patient are unknown to help prevent inappropriate decisions.

Noted WBASNY President, Gail Boggio, "It is time for the State of New York to provide protection for those who are unable to make medical decisions and who are otherwise not able to be represented by a family member or a close friend in the absence of a prior, written authorization. New York State now remains one of the last states in the country to enact legislation of this type." Boggio added, "We believe passage of the legislation itself will encourage loved ones to have conversations concerning their wishes for end of life care."

Identical bills have been sponsored in the State Assembly and the State Senate by Assemblyman Richard Gottfried and Senator Thomas Duane.

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WBASNY's mission is to promote the advancement of women in society and in the legal profession, to promote the fair and equal administration of justice, and to act as a unified voice of significance to women generally and women attorneys in particular.

For additional information about WBASNY, please visit our website at [www.wbasny.org](http://www.wbasny.org).