



Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York

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Contact: Phoebe Stonbely

pstonbely@lrany.org

518.512.5265

Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York Opposes Medical Liability Statute of Limitations Expansion

Legislation to enact a “date of discovery” law for medical malpractice cases would harm patients, not help them, group says

(Albany, NY) - The Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York (LRANY) has joined hospitals, doctors, and healthcare professionals in opposition to S.911/A.285, a bill that would expand the statute of limitations for medical lawsuits up to 10 years. Citing higher costs and decreased access to care, the group said the state’s medical system could not take another cost increase.

The proposed legislation seeks to start the statute of limitations at the point at which an alleged act of medical malpractice is discovered, rather than the point at which it actually occurred. LRANY called this extension a “death blow” to New York’s medical liability system which already accounts for 20% of all medical liability payouts in the country.

“New York’s medical liability costs are already the highest in the nation by a wide margin” said Tom Stebbins, executive director of LRANY. “This bill would make a bad situation far worse, leading to higher premiums, closed hospitals, and more doctors fleeing our state.”

Stebbins also expressed surprise that the legislature would consider a bill heavily favored by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association in light of the recent scandals that have rocked Albany. “The people of New York are watching, and they are tired of the legislature giving in to the trial lawyers’ special interests. This bill is the perfect example of a trial lawyer giveaway – massive profits for them, increased costs for the rest of us.”

BY THE NUMBERS

20% Percentage of all medical liability payouts in the entire nation that New York accounts for

25% Increase in total hospital medical liability costs if this legislation is enacted

2/3 Proportion of states that do not use a pure “date of discovery” statute

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The Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York (LRANY) is a nonpartisan not-for-profit association of businesses, professionals, healthcare providers, membership organizations, taxpayers, and concerned citizens committed to changing New York’s legal system to help create jobs and energize our economy.

19 Dove Street, Suite 201
Albany, NY 12210
518.512.5265
www.LRANY.org