



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A. 6665 (Gottfried) / S. 4495 (Duane)

An Act to amend the public health law, the education law and the labor law, in relation to prohibiting participation in torture and improper treatment of prisoners by health professionals

The New York Chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild supports A.6665/S.4495 amending the public health law prohibiting participation in torture and mistreatment of prisoners by health care professionals in or outside of New York State.

A.6665/S.4495 prohibits New York State licensed health professionals from participating in torture and improper treatment of prisoners in detention centers and prisons and upholds the principal of "Do no harm". It provides definitions for "prisoner", "health care professional", "improper treatment", and "torture", and is in accordance with current New York State Law. A "duty to report" is established and protection for those reporting abusive or improper practices.

We encourage the passage of this bill to eliminate the complicity and involvement of health care professionals in the commission of torture and improper treatment.

The National Lawyer's Guild is dedicated to the need for basic and progressive change in the structure of our political and economic system. Through its members – lawyers, law students, jailhouse lawyers and legal workers united in chapters and committees – the Guild works locally, nationally and internationally as an effective political and social force in the service of the people.