



NATIONAL
PHYSICIANS
ALLIANCE

The National Physicians Alliance (NPA) is a multi-specialty organization with 15,000 members dedicated to the core principles of service, integrity, and advocacy. On behalf of the NPA and the New York Local Action Network (NPA NY), we write to encourage (A.6665B) amending the public health law prohibiting participation in torture and mistreatment of prisoners by health care professionals in or outside of New York State.

The NPA strongly believes in creating and upholding policies that prevent inhumane treatment of prisoners and detainees. A health care professional who comes to the aid of a prisoner is fulfilling an ethical principle of beneficence. However, a health care professional who attends to a prisoner in order to allow torture or mistreatment to commence or continue is violating the ethical principles of medicine. Such actions are in direct conflict with the physician's oath: "First, do no harm." We condemn the mistreatment of prisoners and detainees.

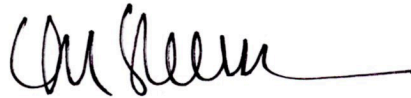
The public has steadily lost faith in the medical profession over the last several decades. The National Physicians Alliance was founded to restore trust in the medical profession by refocusing medicine on our core values: service, integrity, and advocacy. The NPA not only represents doctors, but also collaborates with patients. We aim to regain our patients' trust by earning it. The NPA believes that patients should never have to doubt the motives of their doctors.

As an organization of physicians dedicated to promoting the needs of patients, we have a professional obligation to advocate for the health and human rights of all persons. The NPA believes that this legislation will help protect the professionalism of medicine and establish a mechanism for health care professionals, who deliver quality health care to prisoners and who are acting in an ethical manner, to safely report cases of torture or suspected torture to proper authorities.

Respectfully,



William B Jordan, MD MPH
Board Member, National Physicians Alliance



Manisha Sharma, MD
Director, NPA NY Local Action Network