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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

**A.6665-B (Gottfried)
S.4495-A (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 care professionals

On behalf of the New York State Society of Physician Assistants, a statewide organization representing the interests of the over 9,000 licensed physician assistants throughout New York, we write in strong support of A.6665-B (Gottfried)/S.4495-A (Duane) which would prohibit participation in the torture and mistreatment of prisoners by healthcare professionals.

The New York State Society of Physician Assistants (“NYSSPA”) has a well established Code of Ethics which clearly states, among other things, that physician assistants must function in the highest ethical manner consistent with the rights of all individuals to quality health care. NYSSPA members are steadfast in their commitment to demonstrating respect for the dignity and individuality of patients, colleagues, and other members of the health professions. Above all, NYSSPA members are committed to maintaining the utmost respect for human life.

The time honored ideals of the medical profession imply that the responsibilities of all healthcare professionals extend not only to the individual but also to society. These responsibilities require the utmost interest and participation in activities which have the purpose of improving the health and well-being of the individual and the community. A.6665-B (Gottfried)/S.4495-A (Duane) will further ensure that these ideals and responsibilities are upheld and provide healthcare professionals a mechanism to report cases of suspected torture to the proper authorities.

Given the foregoing, the New York State Society of Physician Assistants respectfully requests your approval of this important legislation.