



*New York Province of the Society of Jesus
Office of Social Ministries*

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Memorandum in Support of New York State Legislation
To Bar Health Care Professionals Licensed in New York State
From Participating in Torture or Improper Treatment of Prisoners
A-6665-B and S-4495-A

The New York Province of the Society of Jesus supports this legislation because of our strong opposition to the use of torture as well as to treatment of individuals that is cruel, inhuman and degrading.

We believe that all human beings are created by one God in God's own image and likeness. All individuals, therefore, have an inherent dignity that no government, agency, or system may compromise or deny because our dignity has been divinely given. All of us have a positive duty to protect human dignity and to ensure that no one who acts in our name acts in a manner that compromises the dignity of another.

Health care professionals, charged as they are with the health and well-being of individuals, have a particular obligation to preserve and protect human dignity. What is a more egregious violation of the health and well-being of individuals than torture? What is a more obvious violation of the health and well-being of individuals than cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of them? Health care professionals, therefore, can in no way cooperate with torture, or with cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of persons.

We applaud those in the New York State legislature who have introduced this legislation and we promise our full support in seeing this legislation enacted.

All inquiries regarding this memorandum of support can be directed to:

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