

July 18, 2017

Alphonso David, Esq.
Counsel to the Governor
State Capitol, Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Re: AMA opposition to New York S.6800/A.8516

Dear Mr. David:

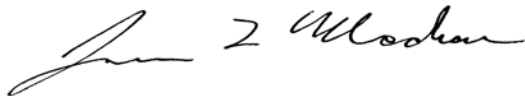
On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing to urge Governor Cuomo to **veto S.6800/A.8516**, which would substantially lengthen the statute of limitations for medical liability actions, ostensibly when a diagnosis of cancer or malignant tumor has been negligently missed. Medical liability reform is a crucial issue, and this first-of-its-kind legislation would significantly weaken the liability climate for New York patients and physicians.

The medical liability system adversely affects patients in many ways. It reduces patients' access to health care – particularly high risk procedures. Passage of S.6800/A.8516 would only exacerbate this problem for New York patients, likely adding thousands of dollars to average annual medical liability insurance premiums, which already rank among the highest in the nation.

The medical liability system also adds to the cost of patients' health care expenses, and forces patients to go through additional tests and procedures due to a system that encourages physicians to practice defensive medicine. This legislation would not only encourage defensive medicine, it would nearly require it, leaving physicians little choice but to subject their patients to potentially unnecessary referrals to specialists or diagnostic imaging procedures. When taken together, this legislation risks making the practice of medicine increasingly inaccessible and unaffordable.

Based on all of the above, we strongly urge Governor Cuomo to **veto S.6800/A.8516**. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at (312) 464-4783 or kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD

cc: Medical Society of the State of New York