



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
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October 7, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: New York Anti Shackling Bill (Assembly Bill 6430.A/ Senate Bill 983.A) - Support

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to express our support of Assembly Bill 6430.A and Senate Bill 983.A, legislation to strengthen the existing New York law prohibiting the shackling of pregnant prisoners.

The AMA has long-standing policy opposing the shackling of pregnant prisoners during labor, delivery, and postpartum recovery because it is unnecessary and dangerous to a woman's health and well-being. In fact, the vast majority of female prisoners or detainees incarcerated are non-violent offenders and restraining these prisoners and detainees increases their potential for physical harm from an accidental trip or fall. Moreover, freedom from physical restraints is especially critical during labor, delivery and postpartum recovery after delivery. Most importantly, restraints on a pregnant woman can interfere with the medical staff's ability to appropriately assist in childbirth or to conduct sudden emergency procedures. These bills accomplish these important patient protections.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AMA encourages you to sign A6430.A/S983.A.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Armour, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at carrie.armour@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4039.

Thank you for your efforts on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: The Medical Society of the State of New York