

ADVOCACY *BEYOND* THE BULLET POINTS

Women Physicians' Leadership
Academy

Case Study – Small Group
Activity

October 28, 2023

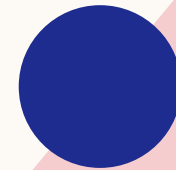
AGENDA

Introductions

Review pre-reading

Share answers to 3 Questions

Choose leader to report back to group



THE GRIEVING FAMILIES' ACT (A.6698/S.6636)

New York State Legislature has passed Grieving Families Act which proposes sweeping changes to New York's wrongful death statute, which has been in place since 1847. It is now awaiting Governor Hochul's signature. **If signed into law this bill would place a massive burden on the state's healthcare system and significantly impact health care providers including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, doctors, nursing professionals and therapists, as well as the medical professional insurance industry, the courts and attorneys.**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JhATk4ZLwJ81wW2vPdOnIBfe97LR5sM9/view>

THE GRIEVING FAMILIES' ACT (A.6698/S.6636)

You've been asked by MSSNY Leadership to visit local legislators to advocate in opposition to the Wrongful Death Liability Bill, aka the Grieving Families' Act (A.6698/S.6636).

1. You walk into your local Assemblyperson or State Senator's office. **How do you introduce yourself?**
2. Your legislator states that they are confused that you are advocating against legislation that appears to favor families. They ask if you are a mom or were anywhere near the nursing homes that suffered tremendous losses during COVID. They almost seem embarrassed, then defensive, and finally admit that they voted in favor of the legislation without reading the whole thing. **What do you say next?**
3. Your legislator tells you that they've got to vote with their conference/party. Of course, both parties in both houses passed this legislation and it is pending the Governor's signature. They ask if you believe there is something that can be done that would also pass unanimously. **What are your next steps?**

THINK “BEYOND” THE BULLET POINTS

- **B: Be Aware of the Impact** - As a woman physician, you have a unique understanding of the healthcare system and how policy changes can affect patients, their families, physicians and their families. Use this knowledge to discern for yourself how legislative issues will impact you and your practice.
- **E: Educate Yourself** - Take the time to research and understand the details of any proposed healthcare legislation. This will not only help you form your own informed opinion, but also allow you to explain the potential impact to others.
- **Y: You Are Not Alone** - Reach out to colleagues, MSSNY, the AMA and other professional organizations for support and information. By working together, we can amplify our voices and advocate for change.
- **O: Own Your Expertise** - As a woman physician, you have expertise that is highly valued and respected. Use your voice to speak up for what you know is best for your patients, profession, and the healthcare system.
- **N: Never Stop Learning** - The healthcare landscape is constantly changing, and it's important to stay informed about current policies and potential changes. Attend conferences, read reputable publications, and engage in discussions with colleagues to continue learning.
- **D: Don't be Discouraged** - Advocacy can be a long and challenging process, with many obstacles and setbacks. But remember that your efforts are making a difference, and don't give up on fighting for what you believe in. Together, we can create positive change for our patients, families, communities, and our profession.