

## Memorandum in Support

### HEALTH LAW SECTION

HLS #2

September 13, 2011

A. 3304-A  
S. 5556

By: M of A Gottfried  
By: Senator Hannon  
Assembly Committee: Ways and Means  
Senate Committee: Health  
Effective Date: Immediately

**AN ACT** to amend the public health law, in relation to health-related legal services programs

### **THE HEALTH LAW SECTION SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION**

The Health Law Section of the New York State Bar Association is in support of A3304-A, a bill to promote health-related legal services programs.

These programs, which are often referred to as medical-legal partnerships, are designed to improve the health and welfare of low-income children and adults through proactive legal assistance provided in a healthcare setting. Medical-Legal Partnerships promote collaboration between healthcare professionals and lawyers at healthcare settings, drawing on the strength of the two professions to leverage community resources so that low-income children and adults can realize the benefits of integrated, services that promote health and well-being.

These partnerships provide traditional legal representation for low-income individuals, with a comprehensive approach to the individual's healthcare needs, through which lawyers, in collaboration with healthcare professionals help to meet low-income individuals' basic needs, including food, housing, healthcare, education and safety, and work to remove the barriers that may impede the individual's ability to access healthcare services.

The Health Law Section of the New York State Bar encourages lawyers, law firms, legal services agencies, law schools and bar associations to develop medical-legal partnerships with hospitals, community-based healthcare providers, and social services programs and therefore strongly urges adoption of this legislation.

Based on the foregoing, the Health Law Section **SUPPORTS** this legislation.

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Chair of the Section:              Francis J. Serbaroli, Esq.