

# Albany Leadership Struggle Must Not Interfere with Critical Need for Legislative Action on Major Health Issues

Albany. June 10. MSSNY President David Hannan, M.D., today called on New York State physicians to look beyond the leadership battle raging in Albany and focus on the need for passage of important legislation including three critical legislative initiatives to assure the health and safety of all New Yorkers.

He asked all physicians to reach out to their legislators and urge passage of these three key items:

- Medical Liability Reform Legislation and Premium Relief. This important initiative MUST be a top priority at a time when we have 700,000 New Yorkers out of work and losing health coverage. Control of health care costs is more critical to all New Yorkers than ever before. Call your NYS Assemblyperson (518-455-4100) and your NYS Senator (518-455-2800) and tell them that medical liability reform is now more critical than ever. You must also urge opposition to outrageous attempts by the trial bar (S.1729-Schneiderman/A.4627-A, Weinstein) to extend the statute of limitations for alleged medical liability actions. This one piece of negative legislation will increase liability premiums by more than 15%. It must be stopped.
- Managed Care Legislation. This bill would provide targeted reform of abusive health insurer practices that delay needed care and better assure appropriate payment for care (A.8402, Morelle/S.5472, Breslin). We must not allow insurers to divert dollars necessary for care to their own exorbitant profits. Call your NYS Assemblyperson (518-455-4100) and your NYS Senator (518-455-2800) to urge passage of this legislation.
- No Fault Legislation. This "common sense" bill (S.3554-Breslin) would finally recognize that physicians who are called to treat intoxicated accident victims in a hospital ED should be reimbursed for their services. Your voice is needed to enact this bill into law. Call your NYS Senator (518-455-2800) and urge passage.

There are less than three weeks until the close of the legislative session in Albany and New York patients and physicians need passage of these important pieces of legislation now. Call today.

