



November 17, 2009

Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

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Dear Speaker Silver:

Once again, the Women's City Club of New York is relying on you to bring A.7729, the Family Health Care Decision Act, to a vote, giving New Yorkers the right to act on behalf of loved ones unable to make their own medical decisions. After well over a decade, differences in both Houses of the Legislature over the wording of the Act have been resolved; and in June the Senate passed a strong and comprehensive bill, S.3164.

We call on you to demonstrate leadership and bring A.7729 to a vote during the Special Session of the Legislature. This legislation, which incidentally is budget neutral, will expand on the Health Care Proxy Law. If passed, it would dramatically ease a challenging situation that affects almost every family in the state at one time or other. Unfortunately only about 20% of New Yorkers have signed a health care proxy, and New York remains one of only three states that deprive residents of the important opportunity to act as informed caregivers when no proxy exists.

We feel confident that a majority of state assemblymembers favor giving family members the right to act on behalf of loved ones who are unable to make difficult medical decisions themselves. The WCC strongly urges you to act on this unique opportunity. Please bring A.7729 up for a vote this year! New Yorkers of all ages will thank you for it.

Very truly yours,

Ruth E. Acker  
President

Annette Choolfaian  
Chair of Health Issues Committee

Cc: Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, Chair of Committee on Health  
Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chair of Committee on Aging