



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State places the highest priority on the health and well-being of its citizens and recognizes the personal right to autonomy in healthcare decision-making by ensuring that critical choices will be consistent with the patient's own, even when a person is incapacitated; and

Whereas, honoring patient preferences is a critical element in providing quality end-of-life care, ensuring dignity, compassion and respect for them in all phases of life; and

Whereas, every adult has the right to decide about his or her own healthcare treatment, and appoint a person he or she trusts to make healthcare decisions for him or her in the event of incapacity;

Whereas, it is essential that all adults discuss their healthcare wishes with their healthcare providers, and execute a healthcare proxy and other advance directives so that their decisions can be honored if they are incapacitated; and

Whereas, the National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) Initiative is a collaborative effort of National, State and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions; and

Whereas, the NHDD New York State Coalition has been formed to promote National Healthcare Decisions Day in New York State to increase conversations that lead to completion of healthcare proxies, increase awareness of the Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) program in the community, and promote passage of the Family Health Care Decisions Act in 2009; and

Whereas, the NHDD has designated April 16th as National Healthcare Decisions Day, and hundreds of events will be taking place across the country to commemorate and support the goals of this day; and

Whereas, this observance offers a special and important opportunity to encourage New Yorkers to communicate their healthcare preferences and execute a healthcare proxy and other advance directives, so as to ensure that their personal wishes are carried, so as to maintain the highest level of respect for a person and peace of mind to family and loved ones during a difficult time;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2009 as

HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifteenth day of April in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor