

National Healthcare Decisions Day New York State Coalition
Family Health Care Decisions Act (FHCDCA) Advocacy
Request for Patient Stories

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, I am serving as the New York State liaison for National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) and am chairing the New York State Coalition with representation from across the state. One of our activities is to work towards enactment of the Family Health Care Decisions Act

It is more likely this year than in the past 15 years that the Family Health Care Decisions Act will finally be enacted. This is the legislation that would allow surrogates to make decisions for loved ones who have lost decision making capacity in the absence of a health care proxy and proof of clear and convincing evidence of their health care wishes.

What could be very helpful in trying to get this legislation passed is to have compelling stories of patients brought to the attention of key legislators. These would be cases of patients at the end of life who lacked capacity, did not have a health care agent and where there was not clear and convincing evidence of their wishes. Life sustaining medical treatment was started or continued only because of current law but contrary to what health care professionals deemed best for the patient, and contrary to the wishes of loved ones, where unnecessary suffering for the patient and/or loved ones.

Please email stories to me at Patricia.Bomba@lifethc.com.

In addition, I invite you to join us in expanding NHDD activities throughout New York State. View details at:

[National Healthcare Decisions Day](#)

[NHDD New York State Coalition](#)

[NHDD NYS Coalition Collaborators](#)

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving the quality of care at the end-of-life. Also, thank you for your support of advance care planning and National Healthcare Decisions Day.

Pat

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