

## Remarks from Rabbi Laurence Kotok

Temple B'rith Kodesh

We are here today to affirm the values of dignity, respect and caring in our efforts and work with the Advance Care Planning Task Force.

I share with you the deep wisdom of the Jewish faith, which had the profound insight 2000 years ago to distinguish between a person who was ill who would recover and a person who had entered a dying state. That awareness lead to decisions regarding what was to be done. The status of "Goses", a person who was in a dying state, was informed by the ethical imperative of not prolonging the act of dying, nor to hasten death.

This awareness serves as a foundation upon which the Jewish Community approaches and supports the concept of Health Care Proxies and Advance Care Planning.

I would further urge us to continue our advocacy to New York State Legislature for the passage of the Family Health Care Decisions Act.