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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT, NYSPHA SUPPORTSA.1542, S. 1487, which provides for space for information regarding advance directives on driver license applications and a space on the driver license for health care proxy information.

**Background:**

This bill amends the information that may be listed on an application for a driver's license or non-driver identification cards, regarding whether an individual has executed an advance directive and provides additional space on a driver’s license for health care proxy information.

Advance directives, such as health care proxies or living wills, are written instructions given by individuals specifying who should make medical decisions for them if they lose decision making capacity, which most patients eventually do and what medical care they wish to receive, or abstain from receiving, should they become unable to make such decisions in the future and These orders ensure that patients' wishes about treatment are known and followed if they cannot

speak for themselves due to incapacitating illness or injury.

All New Yorkers should be made aware of their ability to execute advance directives. However, less than 40% of New Yorkers have completed an advance directive. By adding a question on the application for a driver's license or non-driver identification cards, regarding whether an individual has executed an advance directive, New York can raise awareness about advance directives. Nothing in this legislation would require an individual to complete an advance directive. Rather, it would simply ask applicants if they have completed a health care proxy or living will. All individuals in good health should consider preparing an advance directive in case of sudden accident or illness.

NYSPHA Recommends: We strongly support supports A.1542, S. 1487, which provides for space for information regarding advance directives on driver license applications and a space on the driver license for health care proxy information. New Yorkers cannot afford another delay.

 Direct questions to: advocacy@nyspha.org

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