Memorandum In Support
S.966 Funke/A.2316 Morelle
Establishment of a Registry System for MOLST

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (New York ACEP) strongly supports legislation (S.966/A.2316) which provides for the establishment of a registry system for medical orders for life-sustaining treatment (MOLST) and provides for use of such forms as an alternative to a non-hospital order not to resuscitate.

While New York State has had the non-hospital DNR form for quite some time, these forms are not widely used by patients and health care providers. Additionally, the Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order is limited in that it only communicates a patient’s desire to not be resuscitated should they suffer a cardiac arrest and does not convey a patient’s wishes with regard to life sustaining treatments such as being placed on a ventilator or receiving medications, for example.

Furthermore, while there has been increased use of both the DNR order as well as the MOLST forms, routinely emergency physicians are faced with patients presenting to their Emergency Departments across the State either in cardiac arrest or in extremis. Often these patients may have advanced directives such as MOLST but are unable to communicate this to the emergency department due to their condition. In many cases these patients present without family members or caretakers who may have knowledge of these directives and we are left to carry our full resuscitative efforts that may in fact be against the patient’s predetermined wishes.

We believe that the establishment of a mandatory registry and eMOLST program as proposed in this legislation would allow emergency physicians across New York State to have immediate access to their patient’s wishes with regard to advanced directives at a time when it is most critical to understand those wishes in order to avoid prolonging undesired, costly and in many cases painful procedures.

For all the reasons above, the New York American College of Emergency Medicine strongly urges the legislature to enact S.966/A.2316.