



New York

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February 8, 2016

Howard A. Zucker, MD, JD
Commissioner of Health
State of New York, Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

On behalf of AARP's nearly 2.6 million members in New York State, I want to express our strong support for the repeal of 10 NYCRR Section 34-2.11 (b)(I)(v). We are concerned that this rule, unique to New York, which prohibits pathologists from responding to patient inquiries, inappropriately inhibits critical patient-provider communications.

As an organization committed to helping improve the quality of life for Americans age 50 and older, AARP works hard to eliminate barriers to health and to arm our members with the tools to live their best lives. One of those tools is having access to information about one's pathology and/or lab results. Having the ability to talk directly to one's pathologist about one's own laboratory test results can help patients and their families better understand, make informed decisions, navigate options and adapt to changes resulting from a patient's medical diagnosis.

We urge you to take action to repeal 10 NYCRR Section 34-2.11 (b)(I)(v) and allow the residents of the State of New York the ability to directly consult with their pathologists, something which is permitted in every other state.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

Beth Finkel, State Director
AARP New York

AARP
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