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## **Efforts by Dr. Joseph Fins Leads to Passage of the New York State Palliative Care and Training Act**

Recent legislation for palliative care sponsored by Senate Health Committee Chair **Kemp Hannon** and Assembly Health Committee Chair **Richard Gottfried** was signed into law in the April 2007 budget appropriation. Joseph Fins, MD, FACP, a Governor of the New York Chapter American College of Physicians, made significant contributions in crafting the original legislative draft and analyzing and developing amendments that ultimately gained passage as part of Governor Spitzer's 2007 Budget Bill. The New York State Legislature has adopted the Act which provides \$2.1 million in grants to medical schools and \$2.5 million in grants to residency training programs.

The legislation also establishes a statewide Palliative Care Education and Training Council that will serve as a resource center for best practices at the end of life and in palliative care.

"The Palliative Care Education Training Act will meaningfully improve pain management and care at the end of life in New York State. All New Yorkers should be grateful for the resources that will be directed to medical schools and residency programs statewide to train our future physicians on this compelling issue," said Dr. Fins on the success of the passage.

Dr. Fins is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill [Cornell Medical College](#), where he serves as Professor of Medicine, Professor of Public Health and Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry. In addition, Dr. Fins is Director of Medical Ethics [and Chairman of the Ethics Committee](#) at New York-Presbyterian [Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center](#) and a member of the [Adjunct Faculty of Rockefeller University](#). He serves as Governor Downstate I Region for the New York Chapter, American College of Physicians (NYACP) and is Chair of the NYACP Ethics Committee.

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A diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Fins is a graduate of Wesleyan University (B.A. with Departmental Honors, The College of Letters, 1982) and Cornell University Medical College (M.D., 1986). He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in General Internal Medicine at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He is the author of over one hundred fifty publications in medical ethics and health policy. His most recent book is *A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life's End* published by Jones and Bartlett.

New York Chapter, American College of Physicians (NYACP) is a chapter of the American College of Physicians, the nation's largest medical specialty society. NYACP is a nonprofit membership organization providing information, postgraduate education, and advocacy for the practice of internal medicine. New York ACP is committed to improving the practice of internal medicine and the competencies of internists so that the best care can be provided to patients.

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