



April 1, 2026

VIA EMAIL:

To all members of the New York State Legislature

RE: Proposed Reforms to Automobile Accident Lawsuits in Governor's FY 2027 Executive Budget

I write in my capacity as chair of the Legislation and Rules Committee within the DRI Center for Law and Public Policy in support of the proposed reforms to automobile accident litigation proposed in Governor Kathy Hochul's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget.

DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation. DRI is committed to addressing issues germane to defense lawyers and the civil justice system and improving the civil justice system. Founded in 2012, the DRI Center for Law and Public Policy (the Center)—through scholarship, legal expertise, and advocacy—provides the most effective voice for the defense bar in the discussion of substantive law, judicial process, constitutional issues, and the integrity of the civil justice system at both the national and state levels. Upon request, the Center offers support to our affiliate state defense organizations who are concerned about legislative or rule issues developing in their jurisdictions.

DRI and the Center stand with the Defense Association of New York (DANY) and echoes their advocacy arguments in support of proposed reforms as expressed in their March 11, 2026, letter to all members of the New York Legislature, summarized as follows:

[T]he current statutory framework for automobile personal injury cases has led to increased fraud and lawsuit abuse that is clogging up our court system with excessive litigation and consequently delaying access to justice for all New Yorkers due to the strain on limited judicial resources. **The commonsense reforms proposed by Governor Hochul will decrease fraud, lawsuit abuse and excessive litigation and could increase access to justice for all New Yorkers if court resources are repurposed to those who desperately need them, particularly in Family Court and Housing Court.**

Furthermore, despite the confusing rhetoric that may be propagated by others, **the proposed reforms do not deny injured parties fair and just compensation for injuries sustained in accidents.** Rather, these proposals will modernize New York's statutory scheme to comport with notions of fundamental fairness and also with the majority of jurisdictions in the United States.

DANY Letter to Members of the New York Legislature, March 11, 2026 (emphasis in original).

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and support of the proposed reforms to automobile accident litigation proposed in Governor Kathy Hochul's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooks Magratten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooks R. Magratten

Pierce Atwood LLP

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Chair, DRI Center for Law and Public Policy Legislation and Rules Committee