



Memo of Support with Amendments

S.2316-a/A.2374-a (Klein/Lancman) On Senate Judiciary Agenda

New Yorkers for Lawsuit Reform would **SUPPORT** the above-referenced legislation with amendments. New Yorkers for Lawsuit Reform is a not-for-profit association of businesses and individuals dedicated to reform of the tort system in order to foster a better business climate and address the costs of lawsuits passed on to all New Yorkers. This legislation amends the judiciary law in relation to enacting the jury pool fair representation act.

This legislation would require the recording of demographic data on jury pools in order to determine whether jury pools in this state represent a fair cross-section of the community. While this proposal would help to ensure that juries are representative of the community, additional reforms would help to strengthen the bill. The state should also require 12-person juries in both civil and criminal cases, and unanimous verdicts, as recommended by the American Bar Association.

Requiring a twelve person jury in both criminal and civil trials would include more of the community in the jury system, ensuring that multiple points of view are heard in the decision making process and helping to guarantee fairer trials. Requiring unanimous verdicts ensures that the views of all of the members of the community that the bill seeks to include in the jury system are given their due weight and helps to maintain faith in court operations.

Because the bill is an important step toward jury reform, but could be strengthened in the ways mentioned above, New Yorkers for Lawsuit Reform would **SUPPORT** the above-referenced legislation with amendments.