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CHARLES D. LAVINE
Assemblyman 13th District

CHAIR
Judiciary Committee

August 7, 2025

Board of Law Examiners
New York State Board of Law Examiners
Corporate Plaza – Building 3
254 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-5195

Dear Members of the Board,

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee to express my deep concern regarding the recent medical emergency that occurred during the administration of the New York State Bar Examination at Hofstra University.

It has come to our attention that a bar applicant suffered a cardiac episode during the exam, and the response to the situation appeared disorganized, delayed, and lacking in clear protocol. It is troubling that no consistent or codified procedures were in place to ensure an immediate coordinated response.

While we all recognize the logistical challenges inherent in administering the bar exam across multiple sites and jurisdictions, this incident underscores the urgent need for the Board to establish and implement a uniform emergency response policy across all testing locations. Protocols should include clearly designated responsibilities for proctors and staff, immediate access to medical personnel or emergency services and procedures for pausing or addressing disruptions in a way that protects both the individual in crisis and the integrity of the examination process.

The Judiciary Committee is committed to supporting the integrity of the legal profession, and that includes safeguarding the well-being of those entering it. Our future attorneys, many of whom have spent years preparing for this moment, deserve to sit for the bar exam in an environment that prioritizes their health and safety. No candidate should fear that a medical emergency will be met with hesitation or confusion.

I urge the Board to review this matter thoroughly and to take transparent action to prevent any recurrence. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Board of Law Examiners in developing a statewide emergency preparedness policy for all bar examination sites.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to the opportunity to support any efforts that enhance the safety and fairness of the bar exam for all future New York lawyers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Lavine".

Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee