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## N.Y. families need no-fault divorce

Responding to "Veto no-fault divorce for N.Y." (Aug. 1 essay):

New York's lower divorce rate relative to other states is likely attributable to its high rate of cohabitation, rather than its status as a fault-based divorce state. Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers found that following implementation of no-fault divorce laws, suicide rates of women declined by about 20 percent, and domestic violence toward both men and women, and murder rates of women declined.

Are these not "serious social consequences"? What price do we place on children having both parents alive? Or on the health of women? The state Women's Bar Association concluded in 2004 that requiring fault in divorce proceedings

was detrimental to the concerned children and "provides no economic or other advantage to either party."

Let us reduce contentious issues during the stressful time of divorce. I have yet to meet couples who seek divorce lightly and whose children would not be better off understanding that, while both parents have responsibility for the demise of their marriage, neither is "at fault."

**GAIL FERRAIOLI**

PERINTON

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