



*Representing the advocacy interests
of hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley*

SUPPORT

MEMORANDUM

June 7, 2018

TO: Members, Long Island Delegation of the New York State Legislature
Members, Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Legislature

FROM: Kevin W. Dahill, President and CEO

RE: S.5163 (Parker) — In Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee
A.3895 (Ortiz) — Higher Education Committee

S.5163/A.3895 would amend Mental Hygiene Law to allow nurse practitioners specializing in psychiatry to admit a patient to an inpatient mental health unit on a voluntary basis. **The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State strongly supports this bill.**

Currently, patients experiencing mental illness in New York State can only be voluntarily admitted to a psychiatric hospital or a psychiatric unit of an acute care hospital by a physician, typically by a psychiatrist. However, the severe shortage of psychiatrists can result in long delays in admitting a willing patient to psychiatric care, which often means that patients are waiting unnecessarily in hospital emergency rooms. Allowing psychiatric nurse practitioners to voluntarily admit patients would create an additional access point, making it easier for patients to get the services they need.

Patient evaluation and admission is within the psychiatric nurse practitioner's scope of practice. These specialized clinicians have been trained in techniques for assessing patients with mental illness and formulating treatment plans. They have met national certification standards and often play an integral role in a psychiatric patient's inpatient care once they are admitted.

For the reasons cited above, the Suburban Hospital Alliance urges your support for S.5163/A.3895.