



Suburban
Hospital Alliance
of New York State, LLC

SUPPORT MEMO

Date: May 18, 2023
To: Hudson Valley and Long Island Members of the Assembly
From: Wendy Darwell, President & CEO
Re: A.6697 (Fahy) – in Higher Education Committee

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, representing hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, supports A.6697, which would establish a temporary permitting process by which registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and physicians who are licensed in good standing in another state may practice for up to 180 days while a licensure application is pending with the Education Department. This legislation is urgently needed to ensure that hospitals can secure adequate staffing when pandemic waivers terminate.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated longstanding workforce shortages and created new ones. Every single suburban hospital has clinical positions it cannot fill. Under emergency waivers, hospitals and other providers have been permitted to employ out-of-state clinicians because the process for an out-of-state clinician to obtain New York licensure can take months. Without this flexibility, hospitals would be forced to restrict programs and services.

Pandemic waivers are coming to an end but the workforce shortage is far from over. With the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and competition for clinicians from other sectors, this shortage could persist for the next decade. Hospitals support a number of policies and programs to grow the next generation of doctors and nurses but need to ensure that they can meet the needs of their communities in the interim. A.6697 is a reasonable solution to the short-term crisis. The legislation would establish a 180-day temporary permitting process for out-of-state doctors and nurses who have verified employment at a New York healthcare facility while awaiting approval of their New York State licenses.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance strongly urges the Legislature to pass A.6697.

The healthcare workforce shortage extends beyond nurses and doctors. Positions including certified nursing assistants, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technologists and many behavioral health specialties are in short supply. Many out-of-state workers are being utilized to fill these positions but risk having to leave New York when Executive Order 4 is terminated. We look forward to working with the Legislature to address gaps for these critical positions as well.