



**Suburban  
Hospital Alliance**  
of New York State, LLC

# SUPPORT MEMO

**Date: March 20, 2023**  
**To: Members of the Hudson Valley and Long Island Legislative Delegations**  
**From: Wendy Darwell, President and CEO**  
**S.447C – on 3rd Reading**  
**A.3076A – Assembly Higher Education Committee Agenda, March 21**

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, which represents hospitals and health systems in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, supports S.447C/A.3076A, which would permit one-third of the clinical training required for registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse practitioners to be provided in a simulation experience. Nursing programs also could apply to the Education Department for permission to increase the number of simulation hours beyond that threshold to meet a specific need. Current law allows for the use of clinical simulation in the nursing curriculum but does not allow the simulation experience to count toward the clinical training hours required to complete a degree program.

Clinical simulation experiences are a critically important component of nursing education. As the practice of nursing has become more complex, simulation labs have become increasingly more sophisticated to meet the instructional needs of students and contribute to their safe entry into practice. In addition to introducing students to the treatments, technologies and electronic medical records that they will face when they enter the workforce, simulation labs help students safely develop clinical and critical-thinking skills through immersion in real-life scenarios.

Moreover, the legislation addresses the rigor and quality that these simulation experiences must achieve. Amendments to the bills address the expertise required to design simulation programs, training of faculty, the use of evidence-based and standards-driven teaching methods, and the assessment of competencies, among other provisions.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, simulation labs have become even more important as staffing challenges have limited hospitals' ability to host clinical rotations. A serious shortage of nurses persists across the state and nation that may not ease for years, so we expect clinical placements for nursing students to be a challenge for the foreseeable future. If passed, this legislation will allow nursing schools to extend scarce faculty and preceptor resources and allow students to complete their educational programs on time.

S.447C/A.3076A is important to the development of the next generation of nurses. We urge your support for the legislation.