

Memorandum in Support - A2371 (Dinowitz)/S2994 (Hoylman)

American Nurses Association-New York (ANA-NY) is a professional nursing organization representing the interests of New York State's 260,000 registered nurses. ANA-NY advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing care, supporting the professional and educational advancement of nurses, and promoting the welfare of nurses to the end that all people may have better health care.

ANA-NY, on behalf of its members and their patients, strongly supports the passage of A2371 (Dinowitz)/S2994 (Hoylman), which would clarify that the only permissible exception from New York's vaccination requirements is for patient medical conditions that would place patients who are immunized at risk for adverse outcomes.

ANA-NY members do much more than treat ill patients. They promote public health and well-being. Vaccinations protect the individual and the public from life-threatening, preventable diseases. Healthy individuals, as well as the most vulnerable, benefit from vaccinations. Health care providers, patients, families, and caretakers benefit from becoming immunized; and registered nurses have a responsibility in advocating for necessary vaccines throughout an individuals' health care continuum. To protect the health of the public, all individuals should be immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases according to the best and most current evidence outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Current evidence and research show that immunizations are essential to the primary prevention of disease from infancy through adulthood. In fact, the reduction and elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases has been one of the great public health achievements in the United States (CDC, 2011). Effective vaccination programs for both children and adults, according to current recommendations from the CDC and ACIP, are for promoting and maintaining the health of the public.

Complacency and a reduction in vaccination can cause diseases previously thought to be eliminated from the developed world to reemerge. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been over 700 confirmed cases of measles from January 1 to April 29, 2019 in 22 states. This is now the greatest number of measles cases reported in the U.S. since the CDC declared measles eliminated in 2000, second only to the 667 cases reported during all of 2014.

New York State is at the center of those cases—As of April 24, 2019, there are 232 confirmed measles cases in New York State OUTSIDE of New York City. Rockland County has 200 cases, Orange County has 20 cases, ten cases have been confirmed in Westchester County, and two cases in Sullivan County. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has confirmed that 390 people, including two pregnant women, have been infected with measles. By ensuring that there are only

medical exemptions from immunizations as other states have recently mandated, New York State will be taking a significant step to ensure that all New Yorkers are protected from this disease and many other vaccine preventable diseases.

For the above reasons, ANA-NY **strongly supports** the passage of A2371 (Dinowitz)/S2994 (Hoylman), which would clarify that the only permissible exception from New York's vaccination requirements is for patient medical conditions that would place patients who are immunized at risk for adverse outcomes.