

March 9, 2023

Memorandum in Support – S447-B (Senator Stavisky)

American Nurses Association - New York (ANA-NY), on behalf of its members and their patients, **strongly supports** the passage of S447-B (Stavisky), which would allow for a certain amount of required clinical training and competency for licensing as a registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, and nurse practitioners to be completed through simulation experience.

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 so that all people may have better health care.

Nurse educators across New York State are facing challenges in finding quality, hands-on clinical experiences for nursing students. Clinical experiences are critical in nursing education. These experiences provide opportunities for students to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care in a variety of practice settings. Unfortunately, in the current clinical environment, student experiences are being limited in most health care settings. Faculty report that the numbers of students allowed on specialty units are shrinking and the allowable activities are being restricted (i.e., starting IVs, taking blood sugar readings, passing medications, documenting in the health care record).

It has even been reported that some settings are only allowing observation with no direct patient contact. Key to any nursing education program is direct patient contact and direct practice and experience treating a patient. However, with these new limitations that have arisen, faculty are forced to seek alternative settings to provide high quality clinical experiences. Additionally, enrollment numbers in nursing education programs across the state are being limited based on the availability of clinical placements. As these challenges continue to escalate, simulation experiences are an invaluable tool in nursing education.

Simulation experiences are scenarios that unfold in ways that are not always known or predictable to the learner. They can be conducted on mannequins or virtually, on a computer. Simulation provides realistic, context-rich experiential learning in a safe environment. Students can be involved in critical situations that they would be removed from in actual clinical settings for patient safety, such as a postpartum hemorrhage, prolapsed cord, cardiac arrest, or diabetic emergency. Students can also directly experience the results of their decisions when in a simulation setting; whereas, in direct care clinical settings, students are not allowed to make bad/harmful decisions. An important part of any educational program is training the student on what happens

when bad/harmful decisions are made, and this cannot be done on actual patients, but it can be effectively done in simulation.

It is mutually agreed that simulation is not a replacement for all direct patient care; however, clinical simulation provides opportunities for students to develop their professional skills and critical thinking abilities. This legislation captures this notion and will allow New York registered nursing programs to meet their clinical education requirements with up to one-third of these requirements being met through simulation experience.

For the above reasons, ANA-NY **strongly supports** the passage of S447-B (Senator Stavisky) related to simulation experience in nursing education.