

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
Chair, Health Committee
New York State Senate
NYS Capitol Building, Room 502C
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Amy Paulin
Chair, Health Committee
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 822
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Toby Ann Stavisky
Chair, Higher Education Committee
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 913
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Patricia Fahy
Chair, Higher Education Committee
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 717
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Support for Funding for the Center for Health Workforce Studies

Dear Chairs Rivera, Stavisky, Paulin and Fahy:

On behalf of the thousands of licensed healthcare professionals represented by our respective organizations, we are writing in support of the Center for Health Workforce Studies' (CHWS) request for a minimum of \$350,000 in annual funding to develop and maintain a data collection and analysis system for New York State's licensed health professionals. This modest level of funding would help ensure the timely and reliable collection, analysis and use of workforce data in order to improve the delivery of vital healthcare throughout New York State.

Many healthcare profession organizations, including the signatories herein, strongly supported the enactment into law of S.3543 (Stavisky)/A.3050 (Fahy) in 2021 (Chapter 702 of the Laws of 2021), which will require healthcare professionals to provide to the New York State Education Department certain information and documentation, as determined by the Education Department and the State Health Department, during the triennial registration process to enable the State to evaluate access to needed health services. Our strong support, reflected in a prior letter to Governor Kathy Hochul, is best summarized by the following:

[it] emanates from concerns around workforce capacity and the seemingly ever diminishing availability of qualified, properly credentialed clinicians and providers in many parts of New York State. Identifying where these needs exist and why is critical if the State is to develop policies to address access to health care providers and services. Notably, the New York State Health Foundation and Heal the Connections Health Planning, in its report entitled *The New York State Health Care Provider Database: A Framework for Action* (December 2014), observed that New York "lacks a centralized data source that can provide planners, policymakers and other stakeholders with up-to-date, accurate data about all health (and mental health) care providers in the State". And, while the SUNY Center for Health Workforce Studies admirably evaluates the data that is available, it is clear that with more and better data, it and other analytic bodies could help identify where needs are greatest and how the State may more wisely direct it's funding resources.¹

This rationale similarly applies to the need for adequate funding to develop and maintain such a *centralized data source*, since the mere reporting of additional data, as provided for in the 2021 law, is

¹ Letter to Governor Kathy Hochul, *Support for S.3543 (Stavisky)/A.3050 (Fahy)* (December 14, 2021).

meaningless if the State cannot aggregate and readily use it for the purposes of identifying where there are needs for healthcare services and resources.

We are advised that, until 2020, CHWS received State local assistance funding to support the monitoring of the State's health workforce. With the proposed level of funding, CHWS could build upon its prior system, in order to undertake the additional work associated with Chapter 702, and fulfill one of CHWS' key functions – to support health workforce planning and policymaking - as well as the intent of the 2021 law.

New York is currently experiencing health workforce shortages in many areas, and it is critical that New York State have the data and to be able to analyze the same so it can plan for and address the vital health needs of New Yorkers in the years to come.

Accordingly, we support CHWS' request for a minimum of \$350,000 and we thank you for your consideration of this important funding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact any one of our organizations.

Sincerely,

American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy – New York Chapter

American Massage Therapy Association – NY Chapter

American Nurses Association - New York

APTA New York

National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis

National Association of Social Workers - New York City Chapter

National Association of Social Workers - New York State Chapter

New York Mental Health Counselors Association

New York State Association for Behavior Analysis

New York (NYS)Midwives

New York State Association of Neuropsychology

New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists

New York State Chiropractic Association

New York State Clinical Laboratory Association

New York State Dental Association

New York State Occupational Therapy Association

New York State Optometric Association

New York State Podiatric Medical Association

New York State Psychological Association

New York State Society for Clinical Social Work

New York State Society of Physician Assistants

Nurse Practitioner Association NYS

Pharmacists Society of the State of New York

Cc: D. Friedfel
B. Washington
Dr. J. Moore