

## Memorandum in Support

### **S9187 (Senator Lea Webb)/A10320 (Assemblymember Karines Reyes) Requires hospitals to have a registered professional nurse as a sitting and voting member of the governing entity responsible for developing a hospital's strategic plan, structure, systems, policies and programs**

American Nurses Association - New York (ANA-NY), on behalf of its members and their patients, **strongly supports** the passage of S9187/A10320, which would require hospitals to have a registered professional nurse as a voting member of their governing body.

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.

ANA-NY strongly supports this legislation as the nursing profession would be bring a unique voice to the governing body of hospital boards. Nurses are frontline healthcare providers who serve patients, families, and their communities. Nurses provide not only quality care and ensure patient safety, but they are tasked with strategic planning, critical thinking, communications, and complex problem solving all designed to lead to improved patient outcomes and positive impacts for hospitals.

Across the State, many hospital boards already have a representative of the nursing profession on their boards. We strongly believe that every hospital board would benefit from the experience and expertise of a nurse. Without nursing representation, boards miss the insight of the most trusted healthcare profession with the most direct patient interaction and experience. Nurses see and hear things in hospital facilities that no other provider see or hears. This feedback and insight is imperative to ensuring quality patient care and positive health outcomes.

This bill would ensure that there is always a nursing voice, and perspective, at the table where the decisions are made. ANA-NY feels that this will not only benefit the facility and the patients, but it will also help all the nurses in the facility feel that they have a pathway to being heard. This is more important than ever as nurses are experiencing unprecedented burnout and turnover given the healthcare worker shortage, the demanding hours, and ever decreasing resources

For these reasons, ANA-NY **strongly supports** the passage of S9187 (Senator Lea Webb)/A10320 (Assemblymember Karines Reyes).