

Memorandum in Support

S1187, S1193, S1208, S2377, S2463-A, S2465, S5132, S5134, S5135-A (Senator Persaud)

The 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 a package of bills sponsored by Senator Persaud. These bills can broadly be split into two categories: (1) increasing patient access to lifesaving health screenings and (2) increasing information available to patients regarding such testing.

Increasing Patient Access to Lifesaving Health Screenings

ANA-NY strongly supports **S1187, S1193, S1208, S2377, S2465, S5132** and **S5134**. **S1187/A1641** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Hunter), would require health insurance policies to cover annual ovarian cancer screening for high-risk patients. **S1193** (Senator Persaud) would ensure that ovarian cancer survivors have the right to access genetic screenings for certain genetic conditions. **S1208** (Senator Persaud), would require genetic testing results to be received only by a patient and health care providers providing direct care, and provide to insurance companies a record that the genetic testing was performed. **S2377/A3410** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Solages), would require the New York State Cancer Services Programs to provide various cancer screenings and diagnostic services at no cost. **S2465/A1696** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Hunter), would require certain insurance policies and Medicaid to allow patients a 120 window for additional breast cancer screenings when such screenings are deemed medically necessary. **S5132/A6185** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Hunter) would require esophageal cancer testing and treatments to be covered by certain insurance plans. Finally, **S5134/A6186** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Hunter) would require health insurance policies to cover multi-marker testing relating to ovarian cancer for patients diagnosed with an ovarian adnexal mass.

Each of the above bills is intended to increase access to health screenings for populations that are often overlooked. Public health must be focused on promoting and protecting the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. Public health means addressing determinants of health, which includes evaluating the social and environmental determinants of health. Far too often, zip codes determine the state of individuals' health and access to care. ANA-NY supports legislation, like these bills, that is critical to public health and ensuring adequate access to healthcare for all New Yorkers.

Increasing Patient Information Regarding Health Screenings

ANA-NY also supports **S2463-A** and **S5135-A**. **S2463-A/A1147-A** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Joyner), would require the Department of Health to create an informational packet regarding the laparoscopic power morcellation surgery technique. **S5135-A/A6314** (Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Dinowitz) would require the Department of Health to create an informational packet regarding the importance of prostate-specific antigen testing. Both of these bills would aim to fill a different informational void that could help save lives. ANA-NY strongly believes that increasing patient knowledge improves patient outcomes. Improving patient outcomes is critical to the mission of ANA-NY.

For these reasons, ANA-NY supports the passage of **S1187, S1193, S1208, S2377, S2463-A, S2465, S5132, S5134, and S5135-A**.