

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building - Room 907
Albany, NY 12227

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building - Room 932
Albany, NY 12228

Senator Toby Stavisky
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building - Room 913
Albany, NY 12227

Member of the Assembly Deborah Glick
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building - Room 717
Albany, NY 12228

Re: 2019-20 State Budget // Education

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, Chair Stavisky and Chair Glick:

We write to you today on behalf of 15 licensed professions regulated by the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions, which provide vital professional health and mental health services throughout the State. As you are aware, the State regulates no less than 54 separate and distinct professions, provides licensure and registration for nearly 300,000 licensed professionals and provides professional guidance through 29 State Boards, each of which is dedicated to public protection and quality professional preparation and conduct.

We understand that a proposal has been advanced that would require health care professionals to provide to the State Education Department certain information and documentation during the triennial registration process to enable the State to evaluate access to needed services. The proposal further provides that such data would be shared with other regulatory agencies with service oversight responsibilities such as the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and

presented in an aggregate, de-identified form on a publicly accessible website. (S.1506-B, Part CC)

The health and mental health professions share the sponsors' concerns around workforce capacity and the seemingly ever diminishing availability of qualified, properly credentialed clinicians and providers. We commend the work of the NYS Health Foundation and Heal the Connections Health Planning which, 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".

Accordingly, we **support** the proposed creation of a reliable statewide database of provider locations and characteristics which, as heralded by the Foundation, would "help health planners and policymakers build health care capacity and target investments to achieve a greater...care access for New Yorkers".

Acknowledging, however, that the State Education Department's Office of the Professions personnel resources are already strained under current responsibilities, we strongly encourage the Executive and the Legislature to fiscally support the development of the statewide database, as well.

Sincerely,

American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy – New York Chapter
American Nurses Association - New York
National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis
National Association of Social Workers - New York State Chapter
New York Mental Health Counselors Association
New York Physical Therapy Association New
York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists
New York State Chiropractic Association New
York State Clinical Laboratory Association
New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists
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 Association of Licensed Midwives

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