

Memorandum in Support – A8523 (Assemblymember Reyes)/S8083 (Senator Brouk)

American Nurses Association-New York (ANA-NY) is a professional nursing organization representing the interests of New York State’s 270,000 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 A8523/S8083, which expands the use of nurse staffing committees and the use of quality indicators to include other government operated health care facilities.

ANA-NY strongly support Chapter 155 of the laws of 2021, which created clinical staffing committees in each general hospital in New York. This bill would expand these clinical staffing committees to include all facilities operated by the state that provide health care services pursuant to the mental health law, the education law, the correction law or the executive law.

ANA-NY supported the original legislation because we believe that the legislation relied on outcomes-based staffing, which is based on research and evidence-based practices, and required each hospital to establish an on-going committee to create, and have the authority to implement, nurse staffing plans that are specific to each unit of the hospital or long-term care setting.

Outcome-based staffing models allow nurses and facilities to work in a collaborative way to address the registered nurse staffing issue and ensure that the needs of the patient and registered nurse are met and that direct-care nurses are empowered to create flexible and dynamic staffing models that recognize the essential role registered nurses play in monitoring patients and managing their clinical care. This influences quality care and a healthy work environment to encourage retention of registered nurses at the bedside. This staffing model also allows for staffing models that are appropriate for all care settings or solutions. Patient needs change continually, so quality care requires nurse-driven, flexible staffing plans.

For these reasons, ANA-NY **strongly supports** the passage of A8523/S8083, which expands the use of nurse staffing committees to government operated health care facilities.