

**Memorandum in Support – A9078-A (Assemblymember Rosenthal)**

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 A9078-A, which would establish a task force to handle preventative care in the state of New York if federal guidelines are changed or rescinded. Our members do much more than treat ill patients. They promote public health and well-being. Further, nurses must always be prepared to respond directly to public health crises – from outbreaks of disease to natural disasters. Public health responses in areas related to immunizations, infection prevention, environmental health, opioid crisis response, etc. are of vital importance to everyone, and it is imperative that any public health decisions in these areas are done based on evidence-based recommendations and the scientific evidence that exists at the time.

Nurses stay up-to-date in these areas so we can make the most informed decisions when we care for our patients. Whether it is caring for a patient with Ebola, helping a patient quit smoking, or understanding the importance of fluoridation of public water drinking systems, nurses must have the latest and best-informed information to make the best decision on treatments and next steps for our patients. Ensuring that we have guidelines that are based on the best available science and evidence is critical to ensuring the health of every New Yorker.

For these reasons, ANA-NY **supports** A9078-A, which will help to ensure that public health decisions remain based on the best available evidence.