

Memorandum in Support – A7154 (McDonald)/S1531 (Hoylman-Sigal)

American Nurses Association-New York (ANA-NY) is a professional nursing organization representing the interests of New York State's 360,000 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 A7154 (McDonald)/S1531 (Hoylman-Sigal), which would require a health care provider who administers an immunization to a person nineteen years of age or older to report such information to the department of health or to a regional health information organization unless such person object to the reporting.

ANA-NY members do much more than treat ill patients. They promote public health and well-being. Vaccinations protect the individual and the public from life-threatening, preventable diseases. Healthy individuals, as well as the most vulnerable, benefit from vaccinations. Health care providers, patients, families, and caretakers benefit from becoming immunized; and registered nurses have a responsibility in advocating for necessary vaccines throughout an individuals' health care continuum. We also have a responsibility to ensure access to the most up-to-date and complete medical records to ensure that individuals receive only the vaccines they need.

Since 2008, all vaccines administered to children are reported in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) or the New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Use of this registry ensures that there is a full record of the vaccinations that children have received and may still need. This legislation will expand reporting to this system to adults in New York, unless the adult opts out. This requirement will provide up-to-date vaccine histories and help patients maintain vaccine records, which will allow them to know what vaccines they have received and which they may still need. This will help prevent over-immunization for individuals who cannot recall what vaccines have been received in their lifetime.

The registry will also help health care providers consolidate and have more accurate records for their patients, who may be receiving treatment from multiple health care providers for various illnesses and ailments. Finally, the registry will serve as a valuable tool to allow the State and local Health Departments to help control vaccine-preventable diseases through accurate vaccine tracking. We know that immunizations are essential to the primary prevention of disease from infancy through adulthood. In fact, the reduction and elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases has been one of the great public health achievements in the United States (CDC, 2011). Effective tracking of vaccinations for adults is a valuable tool in this fight.

For the above reasons, ANA-NY **strongly supports** the passage of A7154 (McDonald)/S1531 (Hoylman-Sigal), which would require a health care provider who administers an immunization to a person nineteen years of age or older to report such information to the department of health or to a regional health information organization unless such person object to the reporting.