



New York State
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
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SUPPORT

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The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 58,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

The work of professional nurses is stressful and demanding, even under the best of circumstances, but in recent years, nurses from all over the state have faced an added burden as they try to provide the best care to their patients -- the increasing use by employers of mandatory overtime. Nurses are required to work long overtime hours, often including double shifts. In many cases, they are given little notice of this overtime requirement, creating a crisis in their family obligations. If this were an occasional event due to unusual circumstances, it would be difficult, but understandable. However, all too often nurses report that employers have begun to rely on repeated mandatory overtime assignments to fill gaps in their staffing schedule. This repeated and excessive use of overtime on a mandatory basis creates a burden for nurses. It also jeopardizes the quality of patient care. When nurses are exhausted by long hours and little rest time there is an increased risk of errors that can harm a patient's health or well being.

Nurses and their patients need protection from these abuses. This bill would prohibit the use of mandatory overtime for nurses in most cases, with appropriate exceptions for emergencies. It does not prohibit nurses from volunteering to work overtime, which is the more appropriate way to fill short-term staffing gaps. This bill would improve conditions for nurses and thereby improve the quality of patient care. It may even encourage many professional nurses who have left nursing to return. It is time to end excessive overtime by adopting this legislation.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

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