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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.

Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE) are infections that have become increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment. Although they have been seen in hospitals since the 1960s, recent outbreaks have revealed the struggle to limit the occurrence of MRSA and VRE, despite the existence of proven methods to contain the incidence of these infections. The proliferation of MRSA and VRE has endangered public health and created exorbitant costs in treatment. Individuals in health care settings, workers and their patients alike, are in particular danger. A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that 86% of MRSA infections were contracted in the health-care environment.

This bill would direct the Commissioner of Health to establish best practices for antibiotic resistant infection control. It further requires all hospitals to report each incidence of MRSA and VRE and to implement a prevention and control program. These protocols will be modeled on proven methods of MRSA and VRE deterrence, such as the federal Veteran Health Administration's initiative, which has produced dramatic results in reducing incidences within its facilities. This will benefit the public, direct care workers, and health care facilities.

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

For more information, please contact:

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