



New York State
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
100 State Street, Suite 1070
Albany, NY 12207

Kenneth Brynien, *President*

1-800-724-4997
1-518-432-4003
Fax: 1-518-432-7739

Arlea Igoe, *Secretary Treasurer*

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 purpose of this bill is to improve the quality of nursing care provided to consumers in facilities operated by or licensed by the Office of Mental Health or the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. At present, the Education Law Section 6908.1b contains an exemption that allows unlicensed personnel in these OMH and OMRDD facilities to provide nursing services that would normally be required to be performed by licensed nurses. As a result, employees without professional training are being directed to perform tasks such as administering medication that require the knowledge and training of professional nurses.

This exemption in the law is an archaic holdover from the days when care for the mentally ill or disabled was treated as a custodial function with little emphasis on real treatment and therapy. It's time this section of the law was changed to reflect the public policy of the state--that mentally ill or disabled citizens are entitled to the same quality of care and respect that we expect for all citizens. We do not allow untrained and unlicensed personnel to perform nursing duties in other health care facilities; there is no justification for doing so in OMH and OMRDD.

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

For more information, please contact:

Brian F. Curran, Legislative Director and Counsel