

August 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224



RE: Extent Limited Permits for Mental Health Professionals

Dear Governor Hochul,

As a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), I urge you to approve legislation recently passed by both houses of the State Legislature to extend the limited permits available to mental health practitioners in New York (S.9123 by Sen. Sutton/A.9566-A by Asm. Berger).

Under current law, individuals who have completed all licensure requirements for the positions of Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) titles, but who have not yet taken the examination, may only practice under a limited permit that is valid for only 12 months. This timeframe is often insufficient to complete supervised practice requirements, sit for the licensure examination, and account for administrative delays.

Extending limited permits to 24 months will provide greater stability for permit holders, supervisors, employers, and the clients they serve, particularly in light of ongoing social work and mental health workforce shortages. This change also provides consistency across professions by aligning the limited permit duration that is already afforded to other mental health practitioners licensed under Article 163 of the Education Law.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sign this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____