



## **Opposition to Executive Proposals that Would Diminish Licensed Professionals and Quality Services**

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I write to you asking for your assistance with rejecting three proposals that would harm licensed professionals and patients across New York. While a nursing shortage remains, the Governor has proposed several good proposals to recruit and retain nurses, including a scholarship program and health care worker bonuses.

However, three specific proposals should be rejected. The first would transfer oversight of licensed health care professionals from the State Education Department (SED) to the Department of Health (DOH) (S.4007/A.3007 Part CC). There are concerns about the consequences of transferring oversight to an agency directly under the control of the Governor.

The second unacceptable proposal would allow New York to enter into the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact (S.4007/A.3007 Part W). While this may bring additional nurses to New York from other states, many states have lower standards for their nurses. New York should not lower its standards to allow out-of-state nurses to practice here at the cost of patient care. Additionally, this may also lead to outmigration of nurses from New York to other states in the Compact. Nurses may decide to leave New York for a variety of reasons and this would make it easier for them to relocate and exacerbate the current shortage.

Finally, the Governor has proposed to create a paraprofessional title of “qualified mental health associate” position. While I appreciate the recognition of the shortage of mental health care staff, watering down of services and care should not be a solution to the problem.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to reject the three proposals (S.4007/A.3007 Parts W, CC and GG) that would negatively impact professional care in New York and the patients they serve. Instead, the Legislature should seek higher wages for positions in which there are shortages. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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