



*Representing the advocacy interests
of hospitals and health systems on Long Island and the Hudson Valley*

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo,
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: A.1842-B/S.6768

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write on behalf of the 51 hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley to express our strong support for A.1842-B/S.6768, which would require new registered nurses to obtain a Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Nursing within 10 years of initial licensure. The legislation has been endorsed by hospital leadership from both of the regions that the Suburban Hospital Alliance represents.

Proper training of the nursing workforce is critical to ensuring that the highest quality of care is provided in New York's hospitals. Today's nurses care for increasingly complex patients, using increasingly complex technology. Bachelor's-prepared nurses are better equipped with the critical thinking skills and more well-rounded educational background that is necessary to meet these challenges. This is evident in improved quality of care. Studies indicate that each 10 percent increase in the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses results in a 5 percent decrease in surgical patient deaths.

This bill addresses our concerns about the viability of the existing nursing workforce supply by grandfathering all currently licensed nurses as well as all current nursing students. It also maintains the pathway to employment by allowing nurses to practice after achieving their associate's degrees. This provision is critical, as it will preserve the important role of two-year programs in making the profession of nursing an affordable pursuit for students of modest financial means, while ensuring an adequate supply of nurses remains available until new nurses achieve their bachelor's degrees.

Furthermore, we believe that increasing the number of bachelor's-prepared nurses will help to ensure a more robust nursing workforce for the long term. The most acute shortage in our region is for nursing faculty. Increasing the number of BSN nurses also increases the pipeline of nurse preceptors, master's degree and doctoral candidates.

For these reasons, the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State urges you to sign A.1842-B/S.6768.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin W. Dahill'.

Kevin W. Dahill,
President and CEO