



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

SUPPORT

MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2017

TO: Members, Long Island Delegation of the New York State Legislature
Members, Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Legislature

FROM: Kevin W. Dahill, President and CEO

RE: S.3520A (Flanagan) – Advanced to Third Reading
A.1842A (Morelle) – Referred to Rules Committee

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, representing 51 hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, strongly supports S.3520A/A.1842A, (commonly known as the “BSN in 10” bill), 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 an overwhelming majority of the hospital leadership from both of the regions that the Suburban Hospital Alliance represents.

This bill (S.3520A/A. 1842A) 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 moderate financial means, while ensuring an adequate supply of nurses remains available until new nurses achieve their bachelor’s degrees.



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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. As the bill notes, studies indicate that each 10 percent increase in the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses results in a 5 percent decrease in surgical patient deaths.

For these reasons, the Suburban Hospital Alliance urges your support for the bill.