

SUPPORT

MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2020

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: A.10741 Rules (Glick) – Reported and Referred to Rules
S. 8632 (Stavisky) – Reported and Committed to Rules

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State urges your support of A.10741/S.8632, legislation that would authorize the State Education Department to extend limited and provisional permits for public health-critical professions for an additional 12 months while licensure testing is unavailable due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

For several public health-critical professions, in-person exams and simulations are required for licensure. If an individual is unable to meet licensure requirements, they are often allowed to work under a provisional or limited permit, issued by the State Education Department, under the supervision of a licensed individual. At the height of the state's efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19, Governor Cuomo called upon unlicensed healthcare professionals to serve on the front lines. During this time, many were unable to complete the required in-person exams and simulations required for full licensure.

Maximizing the healthcare workforce remains a critical component in the state's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and in efforts to prepare for a second wave of infections. This legislation would ensure that the following healthcare professionals, who have been vital in the state's efforts to combat COVID-19, will be able to continue to provide services until the requisite courses and testing requirements for full licensure can be met: dentists, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, midwives, licensed clinical social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, massage therapists, mental health practitioners, respiratory therapists, respiratory therapist assistants, clinical laboratory technicians, and applied behavior analysts.

For the reasons cited above, SHANYS strongly supports passage and enactment of this legislation.