

SUPPORT

Memorandum

April 26, 2021

TO: Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Senate Health Committee Chair Gustavo Rivera
Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried
Members, Long Island Delegation of the New York State Legislature
Members, Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Legislature

FROM: Wendy Darwell, President and CEO

RE: A.108B (Gunther)
S.1168A (Rivera) – on 4/26/21 Senate Health Committee agenda

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, representing hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, supports A.108B/S.1168A, legislation that would establish clinical staffing committees.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance applauds the leadership of the Legislature on reaching a reasonable compromise on appropriate hospital staffing. The final product of these negotiations, the establishment at every hospital of clinical staffing committees on which hospital leaders and frontline workers will work together to develop appropriate staffing models, is the best possible outcome for patients and direct caregivers. Many hospitals in the suburban regions have already implemented shared governance models with their workforce.

Hospital leadership and frontline workers want the same thing: to provide the highest quality care to their patients. Patient-facing staff who have a role in their own governance and a mechanism for making recommendations contribute to achieving this goal. At the same time, the compromise ensures that these collaborative decisions will be made locally, based on each individual hospital's circumstances, and not forced to fit into a rigid statewide template. Clinical leaders will have the flexibility to adjust for the constantly changing conditions based on patient volume and acuity, experience levels of staff, and other critical factors.

We will be pleased to support all of our member institutions in implementing this initiative, and will work with the Legislature and Department of Health to ensure that the legislation is successful.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State urges your support for A.108B/S.1168A.