



**Suburban
Hospital Alliance**
of New York State, LLC

SUPPORT MEMO

Date: May 9, 2022
To: Member, Hudson Valley and Long Island Legislative Delegations
From: Wendy Darwell, President and CEO
S.6717-A – on Senate Higher Education Committee Agenda, 5/10/22
A.7767-A – in Assembly Higher Education Committee

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, which represents hospitals and health systems in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, supports S.6717-A/A.7767-A, which would permit one-third of the clinical training required for registered professional nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse practitioners to be provided in a simulation experience. Nursing programs also could apply to the Education Department for permission to increase the number of simulation hours beyond that threshold. Current law allows for the use of clinical simulation in the nursing curriculum but does not allow the simulation experience to count toward the clinical training hours required to complete a degree program.

Clinical simulation experiences is a critically important component of nursing education. As the practice of nursing has become more complex, simulation labs have become increasingly more sophisticated to meet the instructional needs of students and contribute to their safe entry into practice. In addition to introducing students to the treatments, technologies and electronic medical records that they will face when they enter the workforce, simulation labs help students safely develop clinical and critical-thinking skills through immersion in real-life scenarios.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, simulation labs have become even more important as the lack of PPE, staff challenges and surge of patients limited hospitals' ability to host clinical rotations. A serious shortage of nurses persists across the state and nation that may not ease for several years, so we expect clinical placements for nursing students to be a challenge for the foreseeable future. If passed, this legislation will allow nursing schools to extend scarce faculty and preceptor resources and allow students to complete their educational programs on time.

S.6717-A/A.7767-A is important to the development of the next generation of nurses. We urge your support for the legislation.