



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

SUPPORT MEMO

Date: May 18, 2023
To: Hudson Valley and Long Island Members of the Legislature
From: Wendy Darwell, President & CEO
Re: A.6683-A (Paulin) – in Health Committee
S.6749-A (Rivera) – 5/18 on 2nd Report Calendar

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, on behalf of hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, urges the Legislature to pass A.6683/S.6749, legislation to establish a community-based paramedicine demonstration program.

Community paramedicine is an important innovation to extend the reach of healthcare providers, treat patients safely and efficiently in the field when clinically appropriate, and reduce emergency department overcrowding. This emerging care model has been utilized under COVID-19 pandemic waivers to leverage an already mobile healthcare workforce at a time when hospitals have been deeply stressed. Patients who are particularly vulnerable to the virus could be treated safely at home while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Executive Order 4 currently permits emergency medical services personnel to provide community paramedicine, use alternative destinations and telemedicine to facilitate treatment of patients in place, and provide emergent and non-emergent services in alternative settings. A.6683/S.6749 would allow those programs currently operating under the authority of the E.O. 4 to continue doing so under a five-year pilot program. At the end of the five-year period, the Department of Health will evaluate the program. This will provide an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of community paramedicine under non-emergency conditions and consider an appropriate role for this model of care going forward.

Community paramedicine is relieving pressure on emergency departments at a time when hospitals continue to be challenged by an acute workforce shortage and it has the potential to make the healthcare system more efficient. We urge passage of A.6683/S.6749 so that this important work may continue after the termination of E.O. 4.