

New York State Association of School Nurses

www.nysasn.org

Talking Points in Support of S3520/A1842

An act to amend the education law, in relation to the educational preparation for practice of professional nursing

The Changing Healthcare Landscape

- The healthcare landscape has changed dramatically over the past 6 years as new models of care have emerged to fulfill the Triple Aim of increased healthcare quality, increased patient satisfaction and decreased healthcare costs.
- These new models require all licensed healthcare providers to work to the ‘top of their licenses’ to meet the demands of an increasing burden of chronic diseases in the general population, as well of the needs of an aging population.
- For registered nurses, this will mean more autonomous practice as care managers in order to help patients manage their chronic diseases.
- Core competencies for inter-professional practice are being developed and professional education in various healthcare disciplines is changing to meet the demands of these new healthcare models and to improve patient outcomes and satisfaction with their care.

Safety and Quality: Better Patient Outcomes

- There is a significant gap between the research knowledge which demonstrates the positive impact of nursing education on improved patient outcomes and the current legal requirements for licensure as a registered nurse in New York State.
- Nursing research consistently shows a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes. These outcomes include lower mortality; lower congestive heart failure mortality; lower failure to rescue rates; lower incidence of decubitus ulcers; lower DVT and pulmonary embolism rates as well as shorter lengths of stay in the hospital.

The Future of Nursing

- The NCLEX-RN, required for licensure as an RN in New York State, is the national registered nurse exam that verifies a nurse’s *minimal* competency level. It assures safe, basic care. It does not assess competency in the additional coursework included in BSN programs such as research, public and population health, statistics, systems thinking, nursing management – all required competencies in order for nurses to work at the top of their licenses.
- According to the Institute of Medicine, there is a need for baccalaureate prepared nurses in order to have nurses qualified to proceed to the masters and doctorate levels so that shortages of nurse faculty, primary care providers, and nursing researchers can be alleviated.