MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

January 28, 2016

A.3945 (Morelle) / S.2145 (Flanagan)

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

New York University (NYU) strongly supports A.3945 (Morelle) / S.2149 (Flanagan), which would amend the education law to increase the educational requirements for New York State nurses. Specifically, this bill would require a registered professional nurse to attain a baccalaureate in nursing within ten years of initial licensure. The bill provides several exceptions to the requirement for certain nurses, as well as for certain current and prospective nursing students.

Nursing is an increasingly complex field and one of the fastest growing segments of the healthcare sector. There are more than three million nurses in the United States, representing one of the largest groups of clinicians. New York University supports this bill because it underscores the growing importance of an educated, highly-trained nursing workforce that is committed to achieving excellent patient outcomes and is prepared for the latest changes and challenges in nursing and in health care delivery.

NYU’s College of Nursing is dedicated to training the next generation of nursing leaders who strive to keep the health and welfare of society at the forefront of their values, while remaining committed to providing patient-centered care. However, a nurse’s role and responsibilities in today’s environment extend far beyond direct clinical care, and incorporate multiple aspects of the health care delivery model that might include quality measurement and improvement, case management, and patient and caregiver education. The College of Nursing, which is an integral part of a research-intensive private university “in the public service,” strives to generate new knowledge and educate future nursing professionals who, in turn, demonstrate the highest standards of excellence in research, education and practice for a global society.

The proposed expansion of the educational requirements for the profession of nursing would ensure that New York’s nursing workforce receives a strong educational foundation, enabling them to excel in a rapidly evolving health care environment. Additionally, NYU is committed to working with and supporting bridge educational programs from associates’ degrees to bachelor’s degrees for RN’s to guarantee an educated and highly-trained nursing workforce.

For these reasons, NYU strongly supports and urges the Legislature to pass this bill.

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