July 3, 2017

Alphonso David
Counselor to the Governor
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Re: A.1842b (Morelle) / S.6768 (Flanagan): AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the educational preparation for practice of professional nursing; and the creation of a temporary nursing program evaluation commission.

The above-captioned bill has passed both houses of the Legislature and will be considered by the Governor shortly. New York University (NYU) strongly supports this legislation, which will require registered professional nurses to attain a baccalaureate in nursing within ten years of initial licensure.

As the Dean of New York University’s Rory Meyers College of Nursing, I strongly support this bill as it underscores the growing importance of an educated and highly-trained nursing workforce that is committed to achieving excellent patient outcomes, and is prepared for the latest changes and challenges in nursing and health care delivery. Expanding the educational requirements for the profession of nursing will ensure that New York State’s nursing workforce receives a strong educational foundation, enabling them to excel in a rapidly evolving health care environment.

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, which represent one of the largest groups of clinicians. A nurse’s role and responsibilities in today’s environment extend far beyond direct clinical care, and incorporate multiple aspects of health care delivery, including quality measurement and improvement, case management, and patient and caregiver education.
While this legislation does not impact those currently in practice or enrolled in an associate’s program, NYU and nursing schools across the state are committed to ensuring that their educational programs have the capacity to meet this new requirement moving forward, which will allow them to continue to provide a bridge from associates’ to bachelor’s degrees for future nursing students. Furthermore, NYU is committed to providing a diverse educational culture as it provides a high quality of debate and advanced academic enterprise, and that commitment will carry through to the education of our nurses.

NYU Nursing has been pleased to work closely with the Legislature for many years on important policies surrounding nursing preparation. We look forward to continuing that relationship and assisting in the nursing program evaluation commission this legislation establishes. We urge the Governor to enact this legislation in order to ensure the best training for our healthcare workforce and the highest quality care of the state’s residents. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Pautz, Director of Government Affairs, at 212-998-2407 or jennifer.pautz@nyu.edu.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN