Memo of Support A.7213 / S.5093

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy urges the Assembly to pass A.7213 to significantly expand health workforce data to inform and improve health planning and access. The Senate passed S.5093 in May 2019.

This bill would amend the Education Law to require certain professionals to provide, and the State Education Department to collect, information about the practice of their professions. A key objective of this proposal is to collect and make available data about the state's health professionals to inform workforce planning.

The availability of accurate, relevant and timely health workforce data is essential to understanding the supply and distribution of the state's health workforce, particularly those providing primary care and behavioral health services. This bill would amend the Education Law to require licensed health professionals to provide, and for the State Education Department to collect, certain information during the triennial registration process that will be used to evaluate access to needed services. The bill does not apply to physicians, who are covered under a different physician profile requirement

Currently, nurse practitioners are the only health professionals in the state required to report workforce data as part of re-registration, as pursuant to the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act (EDU § 6902 (3) (e)).

Reportable information would include demographics, education, and practice characteristics. This information would significantly expand health workforce data available and accessible within the state. This type of data is urgently needed to support a systematic approach to health workforce monitoring in the state that can inform programs and policies to address critical health workforce shortages, maldistribution, and diversity across the state.

Licensed professionals covered in the proposal:

- Physician assistants
- Specialist assistants
- Chiropractors
- Dentists
- Certified dental assistants
- Dental hygienists
- Licensed perfusionists
- Physical therapists
- Physical therapist assistants
- Pharmacists
- Registered professional nurses
- Licensed practical nurses
- Midwives
- Podiatrists
- Optometrists
- Ophthalmic dispensers
- Psychologists
- Licensed master social workers
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Massage therapists
- Occupational therapists
- Occupational therapy assistants
- Certified dieticians
- Certified nutritionists

May 2019

- Speech-language pathologists and audiologists
- Acupuncturists
- Certified athletic trainers
- Licensed mental health counselors
- Licensed marriage and family therapists
- Creative arts therapists
- Licensed psychoanalysts
- Respiratory therapists
- Respiratory therapy technicians
- Clinical laboratory technologists
- Cytotechnologists
- Clinical laboratory technicians
- Histological technicians
- Professional medical physicists
- Certified behavioral analyst assistants
- Licensed behavior analysts
- Pathologists' assistants

This bill would take a critical first step toward ensuring robust and effective collection of data to inform decision makers developing policies and programs concerning the state's health workforce.