

## **Memo of Support A.7213 / S.5093**

*The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy urges the Legislature to pass A.7213 (Fahy) / S.5093 (Stavisky) to strengthen New York State's health workforce data to inform and improve health planning and access.*

This bill would amend the Education Law to require certain licensed professionals to provide, and the State Education Department to collect, information about the practice of their professions. This proposal will improve policymakers' ability to understand and strengthen the state's health workforce by generating new and much-needed information about where and how professionals practice.

The availability of accurate, relevant, and timely health workforce data is essential to understanding the supply and distribution of the state's health workforce, including those providing vital Early Intervention services for young children with developmental disabilities or delays, as well as behavioral health and primary care. The information, to be collected during the existing triennial registration process, will be used to understand, evaluate, and plan for access to needed services. Data to be collected is nominal and designed not to be burdensome to re-registration. 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, pursuant to the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act (EDU § 6902 (3) (e)). [This brief](#) is an example of the type of information now available about nurse practitioners in NYS.

Reportable information would include demographics, education, and practice characteristics. This type of data is urgently needed to support a systematic approach to health workforce analysis 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
- 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 is a critical step toward informing policies and programs concerning the state's health workforce.