

Memo of Support A.7213-A

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy strongly supports A.7213-A (Fahy) to generate health workforce data to inform and improve health planning and access and emergency preparedness. In the wake of a pandemic and the certainty of future outbreaks, this bill should be passed as soon as possible.

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.

There is an **urgent need for workforce data and analysis** that can help us better understand the supply and distribution of the state's health professionals as the State works to:

- *Respond to current and emerging public health threats, including COVID-19 and future outbreaks;*
- *Strengthen vital Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education services for young children with developmental disabilities or delays; and*
- *Improve access to behavioral and primary health 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 the health care professional's re-registration. The bill does not apply to physicians, who are covered under a different 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.

This type of data - demographics, education, and practice characteristics - 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 information is urgently needed now and in the future. The bill is a critical step toward informing policies and programs concerning the state's health workforce and strengthening New York's public health preparedness.