



**1 Empire Drive
Rensselaer, New York 12144**

November 23, 2021

Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
New York State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I write to you once again, on behalf of the 550 members of the New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders, many of whom are nurse executives and leaders in New York's hospitals and other healthcare organizations. **We urgently request an extension to Executive Order 4.1 which expires on November 26. In particular, we urge continued suspension of Sections 6512 through 6516, and 6905, 6906 and 6910 of the Education Law and Part 64 of Title 8 of the NYCRR**, which will allow Registered Nurses licensed outside the State of New York to continue to practice in New York without penalty.

The severe hospital, nursing home and home care worker vacancy rate continues to worsen, given the elimination of religious exemptions to the vaccine mandate that took effect yesterday. This has exacerbated crippling hospital occupancy, as patients cannot be moved out to appropriate sites of care. This situation results in several negative effects on care: delays in triaging, diagnosis, and delivery of medications and needed treatments; inability to admit patients to units that are understaffed, resulting in ED overcrowding; and again, inability to discharge hospital patients to nursing homes or home care, further compressing hospital census.

Removing out-of-state staff, particularly registered nurse resources, would worsen current conditions in New York healthcare facilities and would have downstream negative effects on patient safety, patient outcomes and patient and family satisfaction. And while education facilities and care delivery organizations work daily on innovative methods to help new nurses more quickly gain competencies to practice independently, there are limits to how quickly this can occur without threatening patient safety.

On behalf of the nurse leaders who are ultimately responsible for the quality of care delivered to hospitalized patients and the safety of the care environment, we urge you to promptly extend the Executive Order 4.1 provisions noted above, until the demand on hospitals decreases to a manageable level.

Sincerely,

Ann Harrington, MPA, BA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC
Executive Director, NYONEL