



March 25, 2022

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader of the New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

I write today on behalf of the 550 members of the New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders, who represent hospitals, long term care, home care, and community provider organizations, as well as schools of nursing. We thank you for your commitment to restoring the health of the healthcare system, and as the budget deadline looms, we would encourage you to consider the following:

1. It is important to provide **increased Medicaid funding** to safety net providers that care for our most vulnerable, and that have been most devastated financially by the pandemic.
2. Concurrently, **Medicaid rate increases** are needed for all providers. The historically stagnant rates amidst years of rising costs of care will not support the needed revitalization of the healthcare system economy.
3. **Behavioral health funding** is needed to support the growing demand for mental health and substance use services, both among the public and within the population of healthcare employees.

As nurse leaders in education and practice, we urge your support of these important priorities so hospitals and other provider organizations can afford to pay competitive wages, and support the advancement of employees' education, to improve the quality of care and strengthen the future pipeline.

The workforce has been severely compromised by recent challenges, and we are in need of strong and sustained government support to assure its long-term recovery. A strong, well-educated workforce bolstered by government funding will improve and sustain the health of our state's citizens, particularly those in underserved areas.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your consideration of this appeal from nurse leaders who bear direct responsibility for workforce education, recruitment, engagement and retention.

Sincerely,

Ann Harrington, MPA, BA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Executive Director  
New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders, Inc.

