



June 22, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of members of the New York Organization for Nursing Leadership, (formerly the New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders), many of whom are nurse leaders in New York's healthcare organizations we write in **strong support** of Assembly Bill 6697B which would allow RN and LPN applicants for New York State licensure temporary practice privileges for 180 days, provided they are licensed and in good standing in other states or territories, and are endorsed by an employing healthcare agency.

Crippling nursing vacancy rates – exacerbated by COVID -- continue in hospitals, nursing homes and other provider agencies. If passed, this legislation would expedite filling those vacancies with qualified individuals who are awaiting a New York State license, a process that customarily takes weeks to months.

Establishing and maintaining a robust healthcare workforce is essential to providing high quality care to New York State residents, as well as to attracting and retaining talented, motivated and engaged staff. The ability to expeditiously fill vacancies with qualified individuals is foundational to these workforce characteristics. Executive Order 4, declaring a statewide emergency due to healthcare worker staffing, has provided such flexibilities since 2020; this bill would extend those flexibilities.

NYONL's 600+ members, who are nurse leaders in all areas of practice and academia **strongly support** this bill and urge the legislature to act swiftly to ass it.

Sincerely,

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