

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A8461A
by Assemblyman Lancman

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the “hospital closure planning act”

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), representing the interests of registered nurses and the patients they serve, supports this legislation, which would require a public hearing on anticipated consequences of a planned hospital closing and a report from the state health commissioner on measures to mitigate the negative effects of the planned closing.

NYSNA supports the above referenced bill which would require a public hearing on the impact of the hospital’s closing on access to health care in the surrounding community and, within thirty days of the hearing, provide the legislature and governor with a report detailing specific measures the health department and other parties have taken or will take to ameliorate such anticipated impacts of the hospitals closing. The commissioner would arrange for persons with relevant expertise to testify at the public hearing and shall afford community members, health care providers, labor unions, payers, businesses and consumers a reasonable opportunity to provide relevant testimony.

New York’s hospitals play a critical role in ensuring access to health care for all New York State citizens. Closure of these institutions can have serious public health consequences for the surrounding community, including recipients of medical assistance for needy persons, the uninsured and underserved populations. Due to the state’s economic concerns, there is an increased chance of losing facilities to closure and therefore losing necessary services. It is critical that procedures be in place to establish contingency plans that will minimize the impact of such closings on the affected community.

NYSNA strongly supports this legislation and agrees that a public hearing on anticipated consequences of a planned hospital closing should be required and a report from the state health commissioner on measures to mitigate the negative effects of the planned closing should be provided.