



COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION of New York State

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
A.5540 (Palmesano)/S.5495 (O'Mara)
May 2022**

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) writes this memo in strong support of A5540/S5495 which enact the interstate medical licensure compact, providing a streamlined process allowing physicians to become licensed in multiple participating states.

CHCANYS is the primary care association for New York's federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). Located in low-income and medically underserved neighborhoods, CHCs provide a full range of primary and preventive health care and enabling services for more than 2.1 million patients at over 800 sites, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay. Among CHC patients, 90% are low-income, 68% are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and people of color, 13% are uninsured and 59% are enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus. Many CHCs operate in communities where, if not for the local CHC, there would be no other source of primary and preventive care.

CHCs operate in health provider shortage areas and have felt the pressures of workforce shortages for years. Health center patients have been historically failed by the medical system: many live in communities that have experienced generations of underfunding and disinvestment. Health centers strive to hire workforce that is representative of their communities, including seeking out multilingual staff. However, the inequities in access to career ladders and training programs in low-income communities and communities of color is well documented, further exacerbating the need for providers at CHCs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only accelerated provider burnout, and CHCs are now experiencing unprecedented levels of workforce shortages. CHCs have long experienced hurdles to employing and licensing providers who come to New York after practicing in other states. In New York, there is an untapped workforce that should be readily utilized to ameliorate the existing workforce shortages.

CHCANYS is supportive of New York state joining the interstate medical licensure compact and urges the legislature to pass A5540/S5495.

With questions, please reach out to Marie Mongeon, Senior Director of Policy:
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