



COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION of New York State

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
A.4860 (Palmesano)/S.2216 (O'Mara)
April 6, 2023

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) is in strong support of A.4860 (Palmesano)/S.2216 (O'Mara) which would enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to provide 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 2.3 million patients at over 800 sites, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay. Among CHC patients, 89% 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.

Community health centers have long experienced workforce shortages. The pandemic has exacerbated what is now an unprecedented amount of workforce attrition affecting operations and patient care. Moreover, insufficient staffing levels have increased burnout rates as the burden of responsibilities falls onto existing staff, which in turn affects workforce retainment. Further exacerbating the workforce shortages is the fact that health centers and other healthcare providers have long experienced hurdles to employing and licensing providers who come to New York after practicing in other states, making it challenging to recruit and hire providers from other states.

New York State joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact would help to address New York's workforce shortage issues. States that participate in the Compact are able to streamline licensure by using an expedited process to share information with each other that physicians have previously submitted in their state where they hold their license. This makes it easier for physicians to work in other states and will help health centers to recruit and hire physicians from other states. 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Guam already participate in the Compact with great success and there are more states in the process of joining.

CHCANYS strongly urges the NYS Legislature to pass the A.4830 (Palmesano)/S.2216 (O'Mara) to allow New York to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact which will help to alleviate New York's workforce shortages.

With questions, please reach out to Marie Mongeon, Vice President of Policy, at mmongeon@chcanys.org.