February 5, 2025

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
New York State Senate
New York State Capitol, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Assembly Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

The undersigned organizations, representing a diverse array of perspectives, come together in our shared belief that New Yorkers deserve a stable and robust healthcare system, the cornerstone of which is its caring and qualified workforce. **We write to urge you to enact legislation this year authorizing New York state to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and the Nurse Licensure Compact.**

The IMLC and NLC streamline the licensure process for physicians and nurses, enabling qualified professionals to practice across member states with greater ease. Many of our neighboring states, including New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont and Pennsylvania, have already joined these compacts. In fact, 42 states and jurisdictions across the United States currently participate in the IMLC and 43 states and jurisdictions participate in the NLC.

We greatly appreciate the Legislature's support for recent healthcare workforce initiatives but know that more can and must be done to support our current workforce and preserve New Yorkers' access to care.

Joining the IMLC and the NLC would help bring much-needed relief to New York's healthcare system, which continues to grapple with a chronic healthcare workforce shortage[1] that is impeding patients' access to care. Relatedly, demand for healthcare services is expected to increasingly outpace the supply of available healthcare professionals as New Yorkers' healthcare needs continue to change and grow.

By joining these compacts, New York state would take an important step toward:

- **addressing the healthcare workforce shortage** by expanding the pool of available medical professionals who are needed today on the frontlines in our hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, medical practices, clinics, home health agencies and other healthcare facilities;
- **enhancing access to care in underserved areas** that struggle to attract and retain healthcare providers;
- **supporting and promoting the use of telehealth**, which can play a vital role in the delivery of healthcare services to underserved communities;
- **reducing administrative burdens** by simplifying and expediting the licensure process for qualified healthcare professionals; and
- **strengthening the state's emergency response capacity** when rapid deployment of healthcare professionals to New York state is crucial to meeting patient and community needs.

New York state stands as a national leader in its commitment to innovative solutions that help to ensure residents' access to a robust network of high-quality care across our entire healthcare spectrum. Joining the IMLC and NLC is a pragmatic and immediate action New York state can take to enhance patients' access to care, strengthen our current healthcare workforce and support our healthcare system.

We urge you to consider the significant benefits of authorizing New York state to participate in the IMLC and NLC and ask for your support in advancing legislation this year to make it a reality.

We stand ready to work with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Beth Finkel
State Director
AARP New York

Rose Duhan
President and CEO
Community Health Care Association of New York State

Connie Perkins, PhD, RN, CNE
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American Nurses Association – New York

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[1] Center for Health Workforce Studies (April 2024). The Health Care Workforce in New York State: Trends in the Supply of and Demand for Health Care Workers. https://www.chwsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Health-Care-Workforce-in-NYS-Tracking-Final-1-1-1.pdf

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cc: The Honorable Alicia Hyndman
The Honorable Amy Paulin
The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
The Honorable Toby Ann Stavisky