



Aileen M. Gunther
Member of Assembly
100th District

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Mental Health Committee

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December 18, 2019

Howard Zucker, M.D., Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker,

We are writing to you to express our strong support for minimum statewide staffing ratios for healthcare workers in nursing homes and hospitals. There is currently a patient safety crisis due to inadequate staffing at our healthcare facilities. Decision-making processes regarding healthcare worker staffing vary widely, are not transparent to the public and can endanger patients and residents in our hospitals and nursing homes.

The study the Department of Health is conducting is an important and necessary step. However, studying the problem alone will not be sufficient to protect patient safety in our state. We are strong supporters of minimum statewide healthcare worker-patient ratios in hospitals and nursing homes. We believe that the costs of understaffing, in terms of the lives and health of New Yorkers in healthcare facilities, are significant and must be addressed.

Study after study has shown that inadequate staffing in healthcare leads to increased falls, risks of infection, readmissions, and even death. Study after study also shows that the exact opposite is true when minimum staffing ratios are put into effect for healthcare workers like nurses, certified nurse assistants, and others on the care team.

When the study is complete, we urge you to take action on the results and use your regulatory authority to establish minimum healthcare worker-patient ratios in hospitals and nursing homes. New York State must act on behalf of patients and families to raise the standard of care and safety in our hospitals and nursing homes.

Sincerely,

Queen M. Gunther
M/A Gunther

Rich Gottfried
M/A Gottfried

Patrick B. Burke
M/A Burke

Car De La Rosa
M/A De La Rosa

Catalina Cruz
M/A Cruz

Jo Anne Simon
M/A Simon

Epstein
M/A Epstein

Fred Thiele, Jr
M/A Thiele

Jeffrey Dinowitz
M/A Dinowitz

Thomas Abimanti
M/A Abimanti

Harry B. Bronson
M/A Bronson

Steve Englebright
M/A Englebright

Michael Solages
M/A Solages

Joe Rivera
M/A Rivera

Karen M. McMahon
M/A McMahon

David Weprin
M/A Weprin

Karinis Reyes
M/A Reyes

Gravella Simotas
M/A Simotas

Sean M Ryan
M/A Ryan

Felix W. Ortiz
M/A Ortiz

Brian Barnwell
M/A Barnwell

Rebecca A. Seawright
M/A Seawright

Ellen C. Jaffee
M/A Jaffee

Didi Barrett
M/A Barrett

Kimberly Jean-Pierre
M/A Jean-Pierre

Marianne Buttenschon
M/A Buttenschon

Michael Cusick
M/A Cusick

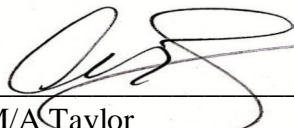
Philip Ramos
M/A Ramos

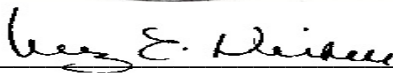
Linda B. Rosenthal
M/A Rosenthal


Amy R. Paulin
M/A Paulin

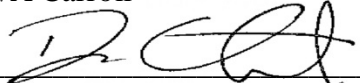
Walter T. Mosley
M/A Mosley

Charles Barron
M/A Barron


M/A Taylor

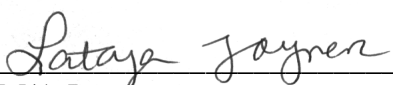

M/A Dickens

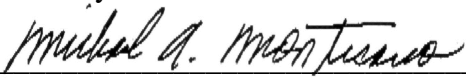

M/A Carroll


M/A Quart


M/A Cahill


M/A Niou



M/A Joyner


M/A Montesano

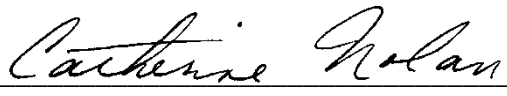

M/A Schmitt


M/A Brabenec


M/A LiPetri

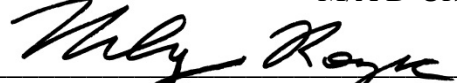

M/A Raia


M/A Smith

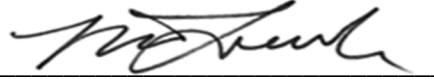

M/A Nolan

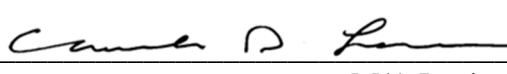

M/A Benedetto


M/A D'Urso


M/A Rozic



M/A Pichardo


M/A Fernandez

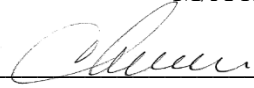

M/A Lavine


M/A Miller


M/A DeStafano


M/A Morinello


M/A McDonough


M/A Tague