

Educational Advancement of the Nursing Profession

TALKING POINTS

A02480 & S0294

“No nurse left behind”:

- These bills **preserve** associate, diploma and baccalaureate nursing education. **No** associate degree or diploma program would be closed as a result of this bill.
- These bills would apply only to future educated graduates of associate and diploma nursing programs. **All currently licensed Registered Nurses and current nursing students would be grandparented** and never need to meet the baccalaureate requirement.
- **Sufficient nursing programs exist** to provide the education needed by future associate degree or diploma prepared nurses to obtain a baccalaureate degree within ten years of initial licensure.
- Administrators and faculty from the *Associate Degree Nursing Council* and the *Council of Deans of Nursing, Senior Colleges and Universities of New York State* have collaborated regionally and **adopted a plan to guarantee 30 nursing credits** to graduates of New York State associate degree programs seeking to continue their education at the baccalaureate level. In addition to advanced placement for nursing courses completed at the associate degree level, students would also receive credit for successfully completed liberal arts, science, and humanities courses.
- The bills will **NOT** intensify the shortage because of the grandparenting clause. Given the number of students being turned away from educational programs, there is a ready supply of qualified applicants to replace anyone who is diverted because of the new requirement. However, we believe that the improved image would result in additional recruits to the profession.

Societal Mandate:

- Improved patient safety and quality requires a well- educated nursing workforce
- Improved patient outcomes reduce the cost of health care
- Growing body of research and evidenced based outcomes is correlated with improved patient outcomes and improved nursing job satisfaction

Professional mandate:

- Nurses throughout the state have voiced the need for more education to meet job demands

- Greater percentages of baccalaureate and masters prepared nurses are required to fill critical nurse faculty vacancies.
- The bills seek to advance the education of nurses to levels closer to that of the majority of health care disciplines.

Practical transition plan:

- **Future** RNs prepared at the associate degree and diploma level would be given **10** years from initial licensure to complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
- **No licenses would be “removed”**. New RNs not meeting the requirement would have a “hold” placed on their license similar to the action taken when a licensee fails to meet continuing education requirements. There is provision for extenuating circumstances.
- If this proposal were passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor in 2007, the earliest that a licensee would be placed on “hold” would be **in 2019**.
- **These bills are a vision for the future.**