



The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State

12 Corporate Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065 P 518.348.0719 F 518.348.0720 W www.TheNPA.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S.1122 (Valesky)

An act to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to diagnosis, care and treatment of injured employees by certified nurse practitioners

The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State (“NPA”) is the only statewide professional association of nurse practitioners (“NPs”) in New York, nearly 20,000 of who practice throughout New York State. The NPA and its members are committed to maintaining the highest professional standards for nurse practitioners, and ensuring the greatest quality care for health care consumers. Our organization provides continuing education programs, assists in NP preparation, and advocates with respect to legislative and regulatory issues which affect nurse practitioners and the patients they serve. The NPA strongly supports S.1122 (Valesky), which would amend the workers’ compensation law to authorize nurse practitioners to provide diagnosis, care, and treatment of injured employees in the workers' compensation program, all of which are healthcare services otherwise within the scope of a certified NP.

Nurse Practitioners, advanced practice registered nurses educated at the Masters and Doctoral levels. These professionals are authorized to independently diagnose illness and physical conditions and perform therapeutic and corrective measures, order tests, prescribe medications, devise and immunizing agents, and refer patients to other health care providers. More and more frequently, NPs are the primary care provider of choice for many New Yorkers. Nevertheless, the only providers who are currently authorized under the Workers' Compensation to deliver healthcare services to injured workers are physicians, psychologists, podiatrists, and chiropractors. Expanding access to additional qualified healthcare providers will increase the availability of quality care, while reducing costs to the system, by ensuring injured workers' return to work in a more timely fashion. Workers in New York State require timely access to interdisciplinary care without unnecessary barriers to treatment. Far too often, injured workers who wish to see their NP, is barred from doing so, because current law excludes any healthcare provider, other than those identified above.

Nurse Practitioners present a viable solution to the bottle-neck of patients in a clogged workers compensation system, and this reform would result in reduced system costs while protecting New York’s injured workers. For all of the foregoing reasons, the NPA strongly supports S.1122 (Valesky).