August 17, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we write in support of A1842-B/S6768 (“BS in 10”), which would require all nurses seeking initial licensure in the State of New York to have or obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree within ten years. The implications of this legislation for the nursing pipeline, and ultimately, the patients of New York, are monumental. A highly-educated nursing workforce is essential to ensuring that the complex healthcare needs of New Yorkers across all delivery settings are met with safe, high-quality evidence-based practice.

As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents over 810 schools of nursing encompassing the baccalaureate and graduate programs that are responsible for educating our country’s practicing nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and other nurse professionals with advanced degrees. To date, there are 52 AACN member schools in New York whose graduates will be navigating an increasingly innovative healthcare system that requires a strong academic background. AACN believes this legislation provides New York the opportunity to cultivate a workforce that possesses the necessary knowledge, critical thinking, and skill sets to do so. Increasing the number of nurses with a baccalaureate or graduate degree, as well propelling associate degree-prepared nurses toward obtaining higher levels of education, will positively impact patient safety and satisfaction. In fact, numerous research studies have concluded that a higher proportion of baccalaureate-prepared nurses decreases the rates of negative patient outcomes.\(^1\),\(^2\)

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to sign this legislation into law without delay. If you have any questions, or if our association can be of assistance, please contact AACN’s Director of Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at Linouye@aacnnursing.org or (202) 463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
AACN Board Chair

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

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