

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

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Senior Vice President /
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Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

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S.2219 (LAVALLE)

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a demonstration program of physician assistant training in underserved areas by students of foreign institutions, and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

This measure would require the Department of Education to establish processes for the approval of curricula offered by foreign medical schools for students in physician assistant programs, clinical training programs for such students that would take place in underserved areas of the state and a graduate exam to be taken by persons completing such programs, in the same manner in which domestic programs are approved. The demonstration program created pursuant to this bill would expire in five years. **The Medical Society of the State of New York has serious concerns with this bill.**

Physician Assistant schools graduating PAs for practice in New York State should be accredited by existing mechanisms. There is no known excess capacity for student clinical training in New York State. There are no structures in place for the planned clinical training with respect to teachers, supervision, and patient safety monitoring.

There is now a critical shortage of clinical medical student clerkship training positions and it is of concern that this proposal will further compress clinical training access for medical students in LCME and COCA accredited medical schools. Further, there is no priority given to NY and US trained MD/DO medical students or NY/US trained PAs.

If there are surplus funds for education in New York, they are needed to train medical residents from accredited medical schools.

We have questions regarding whom the clinical trainers will be; what their credentialing process will be; who will determine the adequacy of the training?

Finally, and very importantly, what linkage to a commitment to practice in an underserved area will be devised and monitored for compliance? If the foreign trained students are like others who are approved to practice, with no restrictions on where they can practice, they will gravitate to urban high-population areas where they can have large, financially successful practices. The New York State Education Department has recently changed its policy on temporary licenses for foreign medical graduates, which previously restricted them to practicing in underserved areas, but no longer does so. If this new policy carries across to foreign trained medical students who come to New York and complete a physician assistant program, the purpose of this bill has been defeated before it is passed.

For the above reasons, **the Medical Society of the State of New York opposes this bill and urges that it be defeated.**

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH DEARS, ESQ.

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