

**American Osteopathic Association
Medical Society of the State of New York
New York Chapter American College of Physicians
New York State Academy of Family Physicians
New York Chapter American College of Surgeons, Inc.
New York State Ophthalmological Society
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
New York State Psychiatric Association
New York State Society of Anesthesiologists
New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc.
New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc.**

Members of the NYS Senate
Legislative Office Building
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247

RE: Opposition to S.3056-A (Rivera)/A.1535-A (Gottfried)

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the physician members of the medical societies and organizations listed above, we urge you to oppose S. 3056-A. This legislation will remove the requirement that a nurse practitioner engage in a collaborative practice agreement with a physician as a prerequisite for independent practice, and instead expands the list of eligible collaborators to include nurse practitioners who practice independently. Patient care in New York depends upon maintaining high quality training between nurse practitioners and physicians. Patient safety and access to physician services are critical components preserved under the current law. Indeed, a 2018 joint report by the NYS Department of Health and NY State Education Department noted that determinations related to safety are, at this time, "premature" (NYS SED, Report on the Implementation of New York State's Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act, 2018).

Nurse practitioners are a critical part of the health care team engaged in high-quality patient care. Nurse practitioners and physicians working under collaborative practice agreements benefit from 3600 hours of learning, training and consultation that evolves over the course of several years, thereby providing time for varied patients encounters leading to a wide variety of diagnosis and treatment plans. Physicians are in the best position to provide comprehensive and thorough collaboration for nurse practitioners under written practice agreements due to their extensive medical school training, which include four years of medical school, three years of residency, and, oftentimes, one or more additional years of specialized fellowship training.

Preserving the physician-nurse practitioner collaborative agreement is critical for patients as these agreements establish a pathway for immediate review and consultation for difficult cases with licensed physicians, an avenue that will be lost if newly graduated nurse practitioners instead enter into collaborative written agreements with other nurse practitioners, thereby bypassing physicians entirely.

We urge you to keep physicians as the collaborator for nurse practitioners as required under current training rules to ensure appropriate training and preserve patient safety. We urge you to oppose S.3056-A.

*Please direct correspondence related to this letter to:
NYACP by email to info@nyacp.org or calling (518) 427-0366*