



# S U P P O R T

## MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

### **S.6464A – Addabbo / A.4933B - Weprin**

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill adds a new subdivision 7 to section 7 of the Civil Service Law to require state agencies to develop action plans to reduce the occurrence of workforce injuries.

Chapter 171 of the Laws of 2007 established the requirement that the President of the Civil Service Commission prepare an annual report describing occupational injuries, illnesses, and workers' compensation claims incurred in state agencies. This legislation would require each state agency documented in that report to submit a plan for reducing the occurrences of such injuries.

The CSEA workforce is especially vulnerable to the risk of occupational injuries because of the jobs that they perform. CSEA represents workers that put themselves on the line every day in state facilities, on our roads, and in our hospitals and nursing homes. CSEA also represents many direct care workers at the Office of Mental Health and Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. Those two agencies combined made up more than half of all lost work days and 40% of all compensable incidents across all Executive Branch agencies in FY 2014/15.

This legislation would provide a substantial benefit to both state agencies and employees. By establishing plans to reduce workforce injuries, this legislation would help state agencies reduce the long-term costs of workers' compensation, disability retirement, and related administrative costs. The need to protect workers who are simply doing their job is self-evident, and this legislation is a step in the right direction.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees, CSEA strongly urges the passage of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner

Director