



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

S.7259A – LaValle / A.10620 - Glick

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends section 355 of the Education Law to clarify that the State University Health Science Centers are included in the SUNY maintenance of effort provision and requires the State to provide General Fund operating support to cover all mandatory costs of collective bargaining agreements.

The SUNY Health Science Centers play a critical role in the delivery of health care in New York State. These public hospitals provide desperately needed care to indigent populations, offer services not available at private hospitals, and serve a fundamental academic mission. Despite the importance of these institutions, the State has consistently underfunded their operations.

The lack of State support to these hospitals has put severe stress on their financial well-being and has threatened their ability to provide care and their academic mission. This bill would ensure ongoing State support to the hospitals by clarifying their inclusion in the SUNY “maintenance of effort” provisions and ensuring that the State provides funding to the hospitals in an amount not less than the prior year’s appropriations. By guaranteeing ongoing State support to these facilities, this bill will ensure that the SUNY hospitals can continue to provide high quality health care and provide New York with home-grown medical professionals.

Finally, this legislation would require the State to provide General Fund operating support to cover all mandatory costs of collective bargaining agreements, including salary increments and fringe benefits. The State has an obligation to fund negotiated benefits for SUNY employees, just as it does for all other State employees. Treating SUNY differently from other State agencies only results in program cuts or an increased reliance on tuition increases to fund the basic functions of the State University system.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across the state, CSEA strongly urges the approval of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Turner
Director