



# S U P P O R T

## MEMORANDUM IN

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## OF

### **A. 3354B – Fall / S. 2588A - Gounardes**

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This legislation amends the civil service law and the labor law to grant all employees paid time off to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

A vaccine has always been the key for us to begin moving past the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, we currently have access to two different vaccines with others on the horizon. While deciding whether to take the vaccine or not should be a personal decision, the State should be enacting policies to ensure that people encounter as few barriers as possible to access this critical vaccine.

Many employees don't have the time to get a vaccine. Workers, especially those in direct care facilities, may work 12-hour shifts or may work overnight and sleep during the times that vaccination centers are open. Others have child or family care issues while some may live a great distance from the nearest vaccination facility. This legislation addresses these impediments by giving all employees the right to use up to four hours of paid work time to get the vaccination.

The time required in this legislation is a minor amount compared to the weeks of time that employees who contract or are exposed to COVID-19 must take off. This legislation will help more New Yorkers have access to the vaccine and help us end this pandemic.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner  
Director