



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN S U P P O R T OF

S.6346 – Rivera / A.7119 - Gunther

This legislation amends the Public Health Law to establish a minimum number of hours of care for nursing home residents.

This bill takes a big step forward to ensuring that the residents of our state's nursing homes are guaranteed a minimum level of daily nursing care. Currently, many of these residents may go days without seeing a licensed nurse. The lack of care can lead to illnesses going undiagnosed and untreated, or existing illnesses becoming needlessly worse.

In addition to significantly improving the lives of residents, this legislation will also help staff. Nursing home staff have exceptionally large numbers of patients to care for during a shift. Many times, they can only give a few minutes of time to each patient, regardless of the resident's needs. These workers feel overwhelmed and guilty that they cannot give the proper amount of care to their patients. This leads to increased turnover and burnout, and has made it difficult to recruit staff into these facilities.

For too long, proper staffing levels has taken a back seat to profit at many nursing homes. This legislation allows the State to refocus the mission of nursing homes back where it should have always been - the residents.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Turner
Director