



OPPOSE

MEMORANDUM IN

OPPOSITION

TO

Part CC of S.4007 / A.3007A

Transfer Oversight of Healthcare Professions from SED to DOH

The CSEA strongly opposes Part G of the Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII legislation. This proposal would transfer the oversight of healthcare professions from the State Education Department (SED) to the Department of Health (DOH).

Currently, the Office of the Professions (OP) within SED is responsible for the preparation, licensure, practice, and discipline of more than 50 professions. This proposal would transfer oversight of the healthcare professions from SED to DOH, essentially splitting the Office of the Professions into two separate offices. The purpose and impact of this proposal is entirely unclear. SED and the Board of Regents have exercised independent oversight of the healthcare professions for 130 years. Transferring these vitally important responsibilities would unnecessarily disrupt and fragment professional licensure laws.

Like all State agencies, SED was impacted by the State's hiring freeze during the COVID pandemic. This resulted in the Office of Professions falling 15% below its budgeted staffing level. OP should not be split into two offices between two different agencies. Instead, the legislature should ensure that OP is properly funded and fully staffed so it can meet its mission.

Finally, while the legislation claims that all functions, powers, duties, and obligations would shift to DOH, the text is silent on what would happen to the current SED employees overseeing the healthcare professions. Without language ensuring that there will be no loss of jobs, rights, or benefits of the employees doing this important work, Part G should not move forward.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the legislature to reject this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Turner
Director