



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

**SUBJECT:** Health Care Workforce

**PURPOSE:** To examine the status of the health care workforce in New York State.

**Tuesday  
December 19, 2023  
10:00 am  
Hunter College  
West Building  
904 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10065**

**ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY**

According to the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, employment in the health care sector makes up 14% of total employment in New York State, accounting for roughly 1.2 million workers in hospitals, ambulatory care settings, nursing homes, and home health care. These health care workers ensure that facilities can operate, that New Yorker's receive the services which they are entitled to, and that we continue to make progress towards the State's goal of achieving health equity for all. However, despite employment in the health care sector projecting to grow at a faster rate than the average for all occupations in the next decade (2022-2032) several positions in health care, including our mental health and services for people with disabilities, are facing dramatic staffing shortages. For example, the New York State Department of Health projects a shortage of almost 40,000 nurses by 2030 and found that the number of certified EMS personnel declined 13% between 2019 and 2021. According to service providers, the workforce shortage and difficulties recruiting new staff has led to some mental health programs seeing staffing vacancy rates between 30-40%, with many providers experiencing turnover rates over 25%. Provider agencies for people with developmental disabilities have also reported increased vacancy rates for direct support professionals and an impact on availability of services. The result has been a lack of access to services, long waiting lists, and an increase in consequences associated with unmet treatment needs for individuals at risk of, or diagnosed with, mental health conditions, physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, or other medical conditions.

The Committees would like to examine the status of the health care workforce, including rates of attrition and vacancy rates, worker wellness, training, education, and workplace conditions. The Committees are specifically looking to explore potential legislative and regulatory actions which could help alleviate the health care workforce shortage in these sectors.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Amy Paulin**  
**Member of the Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on Health**

**Aileen Gunther**  
**Member of the Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on Mental Health**

**Rebecca Seawright**  
**Member of the Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on People with**  
**Disabilities**

**Patricia Fahy**  
**Member of the Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on Higher Education**

**Latoya Joyner**  
**Member of the Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on Labor**

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PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the status of the health care workforce are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Steven Methe  
Analyst  
Assembly Committee on Health  
Room 442, Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: methes@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4371  
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on the status of the health care workforce to be conducted by the Assembly Committees on Tuesday December 19, 2023.
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five (5) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE / FAX: \_\_\_\_\_