

Sample Phone Call Message

Educational Advancement Bill A1977-C/S2553-B

Hello, my name is _____; I'm a constituent of (Assemblymember/Senator) and a registered nurse.

May I speak with (him/her) or (his/her) health aide about a bill? (I'd like to leave a message...)

I'm calling about (Assembly/Senate) bill (number in corresponding house), the "Educational Advancement" bill. I was glad to note that the (Assemblymember/Senator) is a sponsor. I strongly support this bill, which would require registered nurses earn their baccalaureate within ten years of initial licensure. This bill would grandfather anyone who is already a nurse or in nursing school.

- An increasingly complex healthcare environment emphasizes the need for higher levels of nursing education. In a report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice cited significant changes in the healthcare environment, including more complex drug therapies and treatment, rapid advances in technology and the growing population of older adults with multiple chronic conditions, as reasons why the nation's basic nursing workforce should hold bachelor's degrees in nursing.
- Nursing baccalaureate programs offer students more knowledge in nursing theory and in the application of evidence-based data, contributing to improved patient outcomes. The Institute of Medicine–Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report on *The Future of Nursing* (2010) states as one of its four key messages, that "nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression." Nurses increasingly work in collaboration and coordination with other healthcare professionals and as their clinical and technical roles expand, they must attain competencies in areas such as community health, public health, geriatrics, research, leadership, and systems improvement if they are to deliver high-quality care. The Institute of Medicine report recommends that by 2020, 80% of RNs possess a bachelor's degree in nursing.
- ◆ Nurses with bachelor's degrees are more likely to pursue master's degrees which are required to become nursing faculty. There is a looming nursing shortage predicted from an increased need for health-related services resulting from an aging population, an expansion in access to health services resulting from healthcare reform efforts, an aging nursing workforce (the average age of RNs in New York State in 2002 was 47 years old), fewer young nurses, and a challenging work environment that contributes to high rates of nurse turn-over.
- ◆ There are many avenues available for RNs who want to earn bachelor's degrees in nursing. Currently, 44 of 47 schools of nursing in New York State offer bachelor's-completion programs tailored for students who are already RNs. Most schools give RNs the opportunity for advanced placement in bachelor's programs, granting as much as 30 credits for previously taken courses in nursing, liberal arts, science, and humanities.

Please ask your leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote this session.

Would you please make sure that I get a letter in response to my call today? Let me give you my address: _____ . If I can provide any additional information, please let me know. The best number to reach me is _____ .

Thank you so much for your time!