



April 9, 2019

Memorandum of Support

S.4033 (Stavisky)/A.3704 (Gunther)

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) supports S.4033/A.3704, a bill that would provide tax credits to community-based clinicians who provide required clinical training opportunities for students studying to enter various health care professions. CICU represents more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York State which educate almost 500,000 students annually.

Clinical Preceptors are healthcare professionals who provide hands-on clinical training. This training is a critical component to healthcare education for students in professional track programs. Clinical training is also a required component of health education programs and necessary for professional licensure by New York State. Preceptors who engage in this work are vital to our education and healthcare systems.

Unfortunately, there is a significant shortage of qualified healthcare professionals who are willing to assume the duties of a clinical preceptor. This work is often unpaid and done as a service to the professional's field of practice. A 2016 study by Pace University found that almost 80 percent of colleges and universities across New York faced difficulty in finding enough preceptors for their students. The most common challenge these colleges and universities faced was a "lack of interest by practitioners" in taking on the role of a preceptor. Some preceptors have also begun to charge for their services on a per-rotation basis. If this practice continues it could dramatically increase the cost of health education at a time when New York has a demonstrated need for trained healthcare professionals.

This legislation will create a tax credit for clinical preceptors who undertake this important responsibility without compensation. The tax credit will provide an incentive for more healthcare professionals to offer hands-on training to students, and will not only help to increase the skills of new healthcare professionals, but help to reduce the cost to educate these students.

For these reasons the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities supports this legislation and urges the legislature to pass it.