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May 13, 2019

**Memorandum of Support**

A.2341 (Gunther)/ S.5000 (Parker)

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), representing more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York State and educating nearly 500,000 students annually, supports A.2341/S.5000 which would establish a registered nurse loan repayment program for those nurses who practice for at least five years in an underserved area or nursing home.

Similar to the Federal NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program, this bill would allow those who are the neediest in our state to receive crucial care from experienced nurses who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to care for those in their communities. According to the American Nurses Association<sup>1</sup>, more than 500,000 seasoned nurses are anticipated to retire by 2020. With a large population of nurses retiring<sup>2</sup>, there is a need to provide incentives for younger generations to take on the work. The potential to receive up to \$150,000 over a five-year period to repay their loans will give candidates a strong incentive to enter the nursing profession and work in hard to serve areas.

For the 2016-17 academic year, private, not-for-profits institutions conferred 55% of all nursing degree in New York State including 65% of all bachelor's degrees in nursing and 65% of all master's degrees in nursing. CICU member institutions are preparing the future nursing workforce to meet the demand.

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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/workforce/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Fact-Sheets/Nursing-Shortage>