



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Safe Staffing and NY Hero Act

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS May 11, 2021

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New York State Senator, 35th District
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader

**ANDREA
STEWART-COUSINS**
District News and Events



Dear Neighbor,

After years of advocacy by nurses around staffing levels in hospitals, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, I brought stakeholders to the table to hammer out a resolution to this decade old issue. Last week of National Nurses Week, the Legislature passed legislation to establish hospital protocols for de-staff levels, and it was the result of those efforts. In addition, nursing home legislation passed last week established staffing standards for those facilities. This legislation was a long time coming, but truly essential for the care of our loved ones, and bring comfort to so many families. They are truly selfless.

Further, the New York Hero Act, which I supported and passed was signed into law. This legislation makes New York the first state in the Nation to establish comprehensive safety and health standards to protect essential workers from infection and from retaliation for raising safety concerns at work. I want to thank the unions, advocacy and business groups who worked on this legislation.



As we look ahead to reopening, some important updates I would like to share with you. On Wednesday 19th - New York will be part of a regionally-coordinated reopening with New Jersey and Connecticut. Capacity limits will be fully lifted for retail stores, restaurants, bars, gyms, fitness centers, recreation venues, hair salons, offices, and more. In line with CDC guidance, social distancing of 6-feet must be maintained at establishments where proof of a negative test or vaccination is not required, but this will not apply to restaurants, where physical barriers may separate patrons. For more information, you can click [here](#)

And in time for the warmer weather, free weekend shuttle service by Hudson Link has returned

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