

January 28, 2020

**Testimony by the New York State Nurses Association regarding  
Rear Seat Belt Requirement in the Senate & Assembly 1-House  
Budgets**

The New York State Nurses Association – 43,000 nurses across New York State – strongly supports including a rear seat belt requirement for passengers of all ages in the Senate & Assembly 1-house budgets. We are united with the many outstanding professional health organizations and advocacy groups on this critical measure.

As nurses on the frontlines of patient care we see firsthand the injuries and fatalities from vehicle accidents. Research has shown that unbuckled rear seat passengers are eight times more likely to be injured or killed in a crash compared to rear seat passengers that are buckled in. According to the most recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 4.3 percent of 22,441 fatalities, or 966 deaths, involved people who were unrestrained in rear seats. In 2016, the American Automobile Association found that 886 unbuckled rear seat passengers died in vehicle accidents over the past 20 years.

Nurses know that we can do better: by extending the law to all passengers in the back seat and strict enforcement of the new regulation we will save lives!

The lives of our patients, families and communities of New York State depend on the professional judgment of nurses and others. Let's make sure that another year does not go by in which this compelling, life-saving regulation fails to become law.