



The Voice of Medical Education

Testimony of:

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Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)

New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC)

At a Joint Budget Hearing of

The New York State Assembly/Senate Committees on Health

&

The New York State Senate Committee on Finance &

The New York State Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

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Hearing Room B

Good afternoon, Chairs Krueger, Pretlow, Paulin and Rivera and other distinguished members of the New York State Legislature. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on the Executive budget proposal for state fiscal year 2026.

My name is Jonathan Teyan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) and the New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC).

AMSNY is the consortium of the academic medical centers in New York and we strive to be the voice of medical education in the state. To that end, we advocate for policies that help advance the education and training of physicians, support biomedical research and provide New Yorkers with access to the very best clinical care.

NYSADC is the consortium of the dental schools in New York State and works to advance dental education and address disparities in oral health care, particularly as it pertains to access and treatment for individuals with intellectual or other developmental disabilities.

AMSNY runs collaborative programs across the medical schools and has for decades invested in initiatives that create pathways to careers in medicine. AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science, which launched in 1991 and has been supported by New York State since 2001, consists of a large and growing portfolio. These initiatives offer opportunities to talented students who are committed to becoming physicians and who have demonstrated resilience in overcoming adversity on the path to medical school. Many of the students who come through one of our 18 programs will continue on to practice medicine in underserved communities and an even greater number will remain in New York practicing medicine for many years to come.

I would first like to thank the Legislature for its unwavering support for these programs and the AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine. The recent expansion of AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science – which now encompasses 18 programs throughout the state – and the Scholarship – which this year supports 23 students – is due to the recognition by the Legislature and the Governor that investing in our physician workforce is a key component in addressing health disparities in New York State.

AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science

The 18 programs in AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science offer opportunities to talented students who are committed to becoming physicians and who have demonstrated resilience in overcoming adversity on the path to medical school. The programs consider students' academic potential within the context of their paths traveled, including life circumstances, other responsibilities during their academic careers and access to resources and opportunities. AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science programs also seek to expand representation in the physician workforce in order to improve health outcomes in New York State. Students in these programs have a demonstrated commitment to addressing healthcare disparities through medicine, science, research and advocacy. As examples, the

programs look to such experiences as working with disadvantaged communities and other alignment with the AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science mission.

Mission and Impact

Short-term Impact

AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science programs aim to support students interested in medicine and develop future physicians by removing barriers and expanding opportunities for eligible students to pursue careers in medicine and the biomedical sciences.

Medium-term Impact

AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science programs aim to create a supportive community conducive to learning, collaboration and professional growth. A diverse and inclusive medical student population benefits all learners during their medical education.

Long-term Impact

AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science programs seek to expand representation in the physician workforce in order to reduce healthcare disparities, address inequities and improve health outcomes in New York State. Since 1985, AMSNY has supported an array of programs across the state with the intent of expanding the pool of students choosing careers in health and medicine. The goal of these programs is to provide academic enrichment and support to students from educationally and/or economically underserved backgrounds.

AMSNY oversees 18 programs as part of its Scholars in Medicine and Science program that ultimately lead students into medical school, including post-baccalaureate programs at the Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, the Norton College of Medicine at SUNY Upstate, the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and New York Medical College. These programs are remarkably effective; 93% of students who participate in AMSNY's post-baccalaureate program at the University at Buffalo enter medical school and 85% graduate. 94% of the students in our Master's degree post baccalaureate programs enter medical school.

AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine

Paying for medical school is a daunting challenge. A majority of medical school graduates complete their education with the assistance of student loan financing. The median level of principal debt for students graduating in 2020 was \$200,000 (based on public and private MD-granting schools, including undergraduate debt). Including accrued interest, median student debt is more than \$230,000. In SFY 2017-2018, AMSNY received a \$500,000 investment from the State to launch the AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine program. The Scholarship—indexed to the average cost of SUNY medical school tuition— helps students by eliminating the financial barrier to medical school. In 2024-25, the

Legislature increased the funding to \$1.25 million, enabling us to award 23 scholarships annually to students who have completed one of the AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science post-baccalaureate programs. In return, the scholarship awardees commit to working for at least two years in an underserved area in New York. Scholarship students are entering all fields of medicine: primary care, internal medicine, emergency medicine, anesthesiology and urology among others.

These students are deeply committed to practicing in underserved areas of New York State – areas where all of these specialties are needed. In addition, AMSNY has been able to leverage the State’s investment to secure funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, which is supporting an additional 15 scholarship awardees.

For State Fiscal Year 2025-2026, AMSNY is requesting level funding for the AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science at \$3.644 million to continue the historic expansion of these programs to meet the needs of students and continue to help address workforce shortfalls. We were pleased to see this appropriation included in the Governor’s Executive Budget proposal. AMSNY also requests that the Legislature again appropriate \$1.25 million for the AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine to fund another 23 scholarships for students who will return and care for communities in need in New York State.

Additional AMSNY Funding Requests for SFY2025-2026

New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent (NYFIRST)

AMSNY requests a reappropriation of \$10 million from SFY2024-2025 and a new \$10 million allocation for SFY2025-2026. NYFIRST improves New York State’s competitive position in recruiting and retaining world-class scientific talent— an essential component of growing the state’s bioscience sector. Since 2018, with \$11.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST generated \$107.4 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a nearly 10:1 return on every State dollar invested in NYFIRST. In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 156 new jobs with an average salary of \$77,802.

Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP)

AMSNY strongly supports ECRIP and urges the Legislature to fully fund ECRIP at \$3.445 million for SFY2025-2026. ECRIP funds support physicians in training fellowships, as well as infrastructure costs necessary to clinical research. ECRIP awards have also helped better position New York’s medical schools and teaching hospitals as international leaders in biomedicine, attracting the brightest medical students and physician trainees, and improving the state’s competitive position for federal research dollars.

Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP)

AMSNY strongly supports SCIRP and recommends continued investment for SFY2025-2026 with at least \$8.5 million and an increase up to \$18 million. SCIRP funding is generated from a surcharge on moving

traffic violation fines and was designated to catalyze clinical and research efforts to find a cure for spinal cord injuries. This fund established New York State as the leader in research in Spinal Cord Injury and continues to help improve lives for patients and their families. New York's investment in SCIRP has coincided with millions of dollars in additional funding for New York State researchers from sources such as the National Institute of Health, Veteran Affairs, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and the Department of Defense.

Committee on Physician Health (CPH)

AMSNY strongly supports CPH and recommends continued investment of \$990,000 in SFY2025-2026. CPH provides education to the medical community as well as other communities on recognition of stress, burnout and illness in physicians, options for prevention or reduction and outreach to physician groups. CPH recommends evaluation, treatment and/or other assistance to program participants, and monitor for progress in recovery from illness in order to provide strong advocacy on behalf of the participant to continue their practice as a physician or physician-in-training.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

AMSNY strongly supports Governor Hochul's legislative proposal to join the IMLC. During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth became an indispensable tool for patient care and remains vital today. This legislation would reinstate flexibilities for providers instituted during the pandemic and facilitate necessary follow-up care for out-of-state patients, allowing New York providers to reach a broader audience of patients. Joining the IMLC would allow New York physicians to gain licensure more easily in the 37 states which have already joined the compact, while allowing the State Education Department to continue to approve licenses and discipline out-of-state physicians as needed.

Preceptor Tax Credit

AMSNY strongly supports legislation providing tax credit incentives to clinical preceptors who provide invaluable educational experiences and mentoring to medical and allied health professions students. AMSNY urges the New York State Legislature to support these physicians acting as preceptors with up to \$10,000 per preceptor to incentivize their involvement in these critical education programs. Physician preceptors in hospitals and community-based clinical settings educate and mentor medical students, providing practical experiences across a range of medical specialties. Enactment of this legislation will allow New York State's medical schools to continue to expand student enrollment and meet the growing demand for high quality clinical experiences.

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your continued support of academic medicine. I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Teyan, MPA
President and Chief Executive Officer

AMSNY Member Institutions

Albany Medical College
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
CUNY School of Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the University at Buffalo
NYU Langone Health
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York Medical College
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University
School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
Norton College of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

NYSADC Member Institutions

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine
New York University College of Dentistry
Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine
Touro College of Dental Medicine
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry