TO: Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, MPH
Speaker

FROM: Stephen Hanse, Esq.

DATE: April 4, 2016

RE: New York State Society of Physicians Assistants

On behalf of the New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA), it is my privilege to submit the following summary of certain activities NYSSPA has been engaged in over the past year. As you are well aware, NYSSPA and MSSNY enjoy a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship that serves to bolster each organization’s collective priorities and ensure continued access to high quality medical care for all individuals throughout New York State.

I. E-Prescribing

Throughout 2015 and 2016, NYSSPA has been working together with MSSNY and several other organizations regarding the State’s implementation of its e-prescribing law. Among other things, NYSSPA worked with MSSNY in support of legislation that was included within the 2016-17 enacted State Budget to exempt prescribers who issue 25 prescriptions or less each year. While this initiative is beneficial, it expires in 2019. NYSSPA will continue to work together with MSSNY to extend this law as well as to address other issues and concerns that impact the care provided by physicians and PAs under the current e-prescribing law.

II. “At One Time” Legislation

NYSSPA supports legislation (S.4717-B; Hannon/A.3819-B; Gottfried) to clarify that the statutory limitations for physician-PA supervision are applicable at any one time. This legislation would codify a long standing interpretation by the Department of Health affirming that a physician may supervise up to four PAs at any one time in a private practice and up to six PAs in a practice for the Department of Corrections and
Community Supervision. This legislation will provide greater flexibility to physicians and PAs throughout New York State and increase access to necessary care.

III. “Date of Discovery” Legislation

NYSSPA worked together with MSSNY to oppose legislation (A.285; Weinstein/S.6596 DeFrancisco) that would amend the statute of limitations for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice to include a discovery of injury rule, allowing the current two and one-half year statute of limitations to run from the date an injured patient discovers, or should have discovered, that the injury was caused by alleged malpractice.

In addition to actively advocating against this legislation, NYSSPA joined with MSSNY and several other organizations in funding a media campaign to educate the public regarding the significant cost and access issues this legislation would impose upon providers and the public.

IV. Chapter #30

Chapter 30 of the Laws of 2010 clarified that a physician assistant may perform any function in conjunction with a medical service lawfully performed by the physician assistant, in any health care setting, if a statute authorizes or directs a physician to perform such function, as long as the performance of such function is appropriate to the education, training and experience of the physician assistant and within the ordinary practice of the supervising physician. As the provision of healthcare evolves in New York, NYSSPA will continue to work together with MSSNY to ensure this law is utilized to safeguard continued access to care throughout the State.