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New York State's Largest Nurses Union Endorse Westchester & Putnam State Legislative Candidates for 2014 Election

NYSNA RNs and Healthcare Professionals Voice Support for Candidates That Will Continue to Fight for Quality Patient Care Once Elected

(WHITE PLAINS, NY) – Registered nurses and health care professionals throughout the Hudson Valley today announced their support of 12 state legislative candidates running for office in the November general election at a press conference outside of the Westchester County Courthouse in downtown White Plains. The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) is New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses with over 37,000 frontline nurses standing together for strength at work, our practice, safe staffing, and healthcare for all. NYSNA members throughout the region were excited to announce the endorsement of the following candidates:

For NY State Senate:

- Andrea Stewart Cousins (District 35)
- Ruth Hassel-Thompson (District 36)
- George Latimer (District 37)
- David Carlucci (District 38)
- Justin Wagner (District 40)

For NY State Assembly:

- Amy Paulin (District 88)
- J. Gary Pretlow (District 89)

- Shelley Mayer (District 90)
- Steve Otis (District 91)
- Tom Abinanti (District 92)
- David Buchwald (District 93)
- Andrew Falk (District 94)

“On behalf of NYSNA’s 37,000 members, I am pleased be here to endorse these candidates,” **said Sam Caquias, a registered nurse at Westchester Medical Center.** “We need dynamic leadership in Westchester & Putnam counties. NYSNA is confident that each candidate’s activism will continue – once elected -- on issues of importance to nurses, our patients, and working people in New York State.”

“These candidates have a proven track record of delivering for Westchester & Putnam working families and they are NYSNA’s choice to continue to move our counties forward,” **said Mary Simon, RN, a registered nurse at Jacobi Medical Center and a Yonkers resident.** “We’re confident that these candidates will address the crisis in patient care, protect the rights of women by supporting the Women’s Equality Act and will secure resources for Westchester & Putnam families. Each of these candidates has a vision for the future of our communities and they will fight for issues that are important to nurses and their patients.”

NYSNA leaders recommend these endorsements citing each candidate’s strong record of leadership on key issues such as advocating for quality patient care in Westchester & Putnam counties, their support for safer nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in area hospitals, improving opportunities and access in the healthcare sector, strengthening government services and championing middle class and working families.

State Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Westchester) said: "Nurses are on the front lines of our public healthcare system, caring for patients with everything from routine health problems to critical care and illnesses. Nurses deserve our gratitude and support as these hard-working professionals strive to provide the best care possible in this demanding healthcare environment. I am proud to have your support."

State Senator Ruth Hassel-Thompson (D-Bronx, Westchester) said: “I am honored to receive the endorsement of the 37,000 frontline nurses represented by the New York State Nurses Association. NYSNA has been at the forefront of several major issues including serving as first responders to the Ebola crisis and Hurricane Sandy, or fighting in Albany for and safe staffing, quality RN standards or keeping New York hospitals free from Wall street takeovers. Prior to becoming a legislator, I worked as a nurse in Westchester County, and I know how hard nurses across the State of New York work and I know that they are well represented by the NYSNA. I am proud to be endorsed by NYSNA.

State Senate Candidate Justin Wagner said: "The nursing profession is the backbone of our healthcare system, and I'm proud to stand with New York State's nurses today," said Justin Wagner, Democratic candidate for State Senate in the 40th District. "If elected, I look forward to working with the hardworking professionals of NYSNA to ensure our state's nurses have the support they deserve. These hardworking professionals take care of us, and we need to do the same for them."

State Assemblymember Tom Abinanti (D-Westchester) said: “Nurses are professionals who serve as the front line fighters against diseases. They work hand in hand with doctors in medical facilities to help us all. I am pleased to have the NYSNA endorsement and I will continue to be an advocate for nurses and their families.”

State Assemblymember David Buchwald (D-Westchester) said: “It’s with great enthusiasm that I accept the endorsement of the New York State Nurses Association. As I embark upon my first re-election campaign, the support of NYSNA helps to reinforce the good work we’re doing on behalf of New York's registered nurses. Whether it’s working to keep hospitals open for the ailing patients who need them, or fighting for all New Yorkers to receive quality healthcare, NYSNA and their membership of 37,000 frontline nurses are vital contributors to our communities across the state, and I'm proud to stand with them.”

State Assembly Candidate Andrew Falk said: “The hardworking men and women of the New York State Nurses Association provide New Yorkers with the best care available every day, no matter what. I am honored to receive NYSNA’s support and look forward to working together to ensure the health and safety of Hudson Valley families is never overlooked in Albany.”

State Assemblymember Shelley Mayer (D-Westchester) said: "I am proud to receive the endorsement of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). Now more than ever we

recognize the importance of the work and voices of professional nurses in ensuring patient health and workplace safety. I look forward to working with NYSNA in the years to come."

State Assemblymember Steve Otis (D-Westchester) said: "I am honored to have the endorsement of the NYS Nurses, whose advocacy goes well beyond the interests of the nursing profession to encompass support for issues affecting patient safety and the entire health care system. Nurses play an indispensable role in providing quality health care, often under difficult conditions. I look forward to our working together in 2015."

State Assemblymember Amy Paulin (D-Westchester) said: "Receiving NYSNA's endorsement is truly an honor. Nurses are an indispensable part of our healthcare system and communities. I look forward to continuing to work with NYSNA to increase access to quality healthcare for all New Yorkers, and to make sure that nurses are safe and secure on the job."

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The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) represents more than 37,000 members in New York State. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses. For more information, please visit our website at www.nysna.org.