

enced while working in an Emergency Room. He leaned in and truly listened. Workplace violence has to be stopped and not only can we share our stories with our local officials, we can also take comfort knowing that workplace health and safety are top priorities for ANA-NY and ANA. While I want you all to remain advocates in whatever capacity suits you, I also want you to share my comfort knowing that at the state and federal level, nursing's voice is present. ■

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Jeanine Santelli, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, Faith Community Nurse



How will you spend your summer? Here at the office, once we wind down from Nurses Month, we will be juggling staff vacations in preparation for going full steam ahead toward our Annual Conference. Come visit us at our ANA-NY exhibiting

table at the NYONL and NYSANA conferences in September. Be sure your current email address is associated with your My ANA account to keep you up to date on all the news from both ANA and ANA-NY. Upcoming Thursday weekly bulletins

from ANA-NY will include information on Committee Member sign-up, annual election of ANA-NY officers, RN to BSN Nurse Fellowship, and, of course, our Annual Meeting. ■

Legislative Update

Amy Kellogg and Caiti Anderson

New York's 2025-2026 budget was due on April 1. Certain policy issues delayed the final budget, as the Governor proposed a series of major policy changes that took some time for the Governor and Legislature to negotiate. As of this writing, we still do not have a finalized budget, but we expect the budget to be finalized in early May. The Governor announced a general budget agreement between herself, the Senate and the Assembly on Monday, April 28. The big policy issues that we have a broad agreement on include a bell-to-bell ban of cell phones in schools, discovery re-

forms, involuntary confinement rules, and enhanced criminal penalties for those committing a crime while wearing a mask.

The final budget will total \$254 billion, which is \$2 billion more than was proposed in Governor Hochul's budget proposal. In addition to the above policy items, the final budget will include middle class tax credits, an increase in the child tax credit, free school breakfast and lunch for all New York school children, inflation refund checks that will be sent to 8.2 million New Yorkers, and \$400 million will be included for childcare vouchers.



While we will have a final budget in place in early May, it is likely that the Legislature will need to return in the fall to amend the enacted State budget to respond to any budgetary actions taken by the federal government. The federal government passed a continuing resolution in March that will keep the federal government functioning until September. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are now working on putting together a proposed federal budget. Nothing is finalized at this point but based on