



ADVOCACY & MANAGEMENT GROUP

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NJSSA Lobby Report

March 4th, 2026

Legislative Update

The new Legislative session began in mid-January and will continue through January 2028. The Legislature has been meeting regularly and will continue to do so through the end of June, while likely taking a break for the month of April for the Legislature to focus solely on reviewing the budget. Under current law, the Governor gives their budget address at the end of February. However, in the first year of a new administration, the Legislature typically delays the address by a few weeks to give the new Governor some extra time. Governor Sherrill will therefore give her budget address on March 10th.

Below is a list of the new, incoming Assemblymembers that were sworn in on January 13th, 2026 for their first term:

Legislative District 2: Marueen Rowan
Legislative District 8: Anthony Angelozzi
Legislative District 25: Marisa Sweeney
Legislative District 20: Eduardo Rodriguez
Legislative District 21: Andrew Macurdy and Vincent Kearney
Legislative District 28: Chigozie Onyema
Legislative District 31: Jerry Walker
Legislative District 32: Katie Brennen and Ravi Bhalla
Legislative District 33: Larry Wainstein
Legislative District 35: Kenyatta Stewart

Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill has announced several key cabinet and senior staff appointments leading up to and following her January 20th inauguration, establishing the leadership team that will guide her administration. Five of her nominees have been confirmed by the full Senate, and are therefore no longer considered to be in an “acting” capacity: Attorney General Jennifer Davenport, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Human Services Commissioner Stephen Cha, Education Commissioner Lily Laux, and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Vincent Solomeno.

Key Cabinet and Agency nominations include:

- Department of Health: Raynard Washington (nominee)
- Department of Banking and Insurance: Susan Ochs (nominee)

- **Department of Education: Lily Laux - Confirmed**
- Department of Environmental Protection: Ed Potosnak (nominee)
- Department of Labor: Kevin Jarvis
- Secretary of State: Lieutenant Governor-elect Dr. Dale G. Caldwell.
- **Attorney General: Jennifer Davenport – Confirmed**
- **State Treasurer: Aaron Binder - Confirmed**
- Chief Innovation Officer: David Cole, (retained)
- State Comptroller: Shirley Emehelu (nominee)
- Department of Community Affairs Commissioner: Jacquelyn A. Suárez, (retained)
- **Department of Human Services Commissioner: Dr. Stephen Cha - Confirmed**
- Department of Military Affairs: Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays (nominee)
- **Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner: Vincent Solomeno - Confirmed**

Health Committee Updates: Assemblywoman Murphy has been re-named the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee for the second term, and Assemblywoman Donlon has been named Vice-Chair of the Committee. Assembly Speaker Coughlin also created a new committee – the Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee which is comprised of five members, and which we expect to focus largely on hospitals and infrastructure, as well as other general health-related issues. Assemblyman Stanley has been named the Chair of the Committee and Assemblywoman Speight has been named the Vice-Chair.

APN Independent Practice Update: As one of his last acts in office, Governor Murphy terminated the Executive Order which relaxed the scope of practice rules during the public health emergency from COVID-19. Under this Executive Order, APNs were able to practice independently without the prior collaborating physician agreement requirements. It’s something that NJSSA, as part of the Access to Care Coalition, has consistently advocated to end. As one of his last acts leaving office, he terminated the order, with the effective end date in 30 days intended to allow APNS ample time to wrap up any COVID-era emergency exceptions that may still be utilized. Simultaneously, the bill we’ve tracked for sessions which would allow for APN independent practice has been re-introduced this session in the Senate ([bill S-2996](#)) and was heard for Discussion Only in the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on February 9th, 2026. NJSSA was well-represented at the committee by Drs. Colavita and Lapicki who testified in opposition of the bill.

Since the repeal of the executive order, we are seeing a large uptick from APNs calling on the bill to move. There has been a large surge in social media activity, and there’s a petition going around asking APNs and patients to sign on to help save their businesses, mainly focused on some of the medi-spas that APNs opened over the past few years. Several nurse advocates were present at the committee advocating for the passage of the legislation.

On February 13th, 2026, Governor Sherrill signed Executive Order No. 13 which temporarily extended the State of Emergency declared pursuant to Governor Phil Murphy’s Executive Order No. 103 (2020) for an additional 45 days with the intent to provide certain health care professionals more time to enter into joint protocol or delegation agreements with supervising physicians. The State of Emergency, previously set to expire at 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2026, will now expire at 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026. For the duration of the State of Emergency, certain statutory provisions that would limit the scope of practice of advanced practice nurses (APNs) and physician assistants (PAs) will be

suspended and waived. Certain provisions relating to physicians’ supervisory responsibilities will also be suspended and waived as they apply to both physicians and physician assistants. For a copy of Executive Order No. 13, click [here](#).

NJSSA and several other medical specialties have initiated a Call to Action Campaign for physicians to be able to contact their legislators directly.

Grant Award: NJSSA was awarded a \$20,000 from the American Society of Anesthesiologists through the ASA State Component Society Financial Assistance Program to create a paid media campaign and additional advocacy efforts.

Ambulatory Care Facility Assessment Changes Signed into Law: On June 30, 2025, as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law the “Healthcare Finance Enhancement Act” which brought significant changes to the assessment of ambulatory care facilities (ACFs). Prior to the new law, ACFs were required to pay a 2.95% assessment on gross receipts over \$300,000, with a cap on the assessment of \$350,000. Under the new law, beginning July 1, 2025, the assessment was reduced to 2.5% of gross receipts, while both the floor of \$300,000 and the cap of \$350,000 were removed. Further, while certain facilities, such as one (1) room surgical practices, were previously exempt from the assessment, these facilities will now be subject to the same assessment.

At the end of last session, **S-5015** was signed by Governor Murphy. The bill reinstates a \$2,000,000 cap on the existing methodology for the ambulatory care assessment. Based on discussions we had, we learned that the bill was a result of negotiations between Memorial Sloan Kettering and the Murphy Administration, after Memorial Sloan Kettering aggressively pushed back on the tax changes this past budget cycle and the Murphy Administration concluded it may be in a vulnerable legal position and believed that, if challenged in court, there was a meaningful risk the ACF tax could be struck down. As a result, the Administration agreed to a compromise: reinstating a \$2 million cap on the ACF tax. The Office of Legislative Services confirmed that the three below ambulatory care facilities will be affected under this new bill:

Facility	Current Annual Assessment	Annual Assessment Under Bill	Difference
Memorial Sloan Kettering – Monmouth	\$8,625,020	\$2,000,000	\$6,625,020
Memorial Sloan Kettering – Bergen	\$6,752,506	\$2,000,000	\$4,752,506
Memorial Sloan Kettering – Cancer Center at Baskin	\$5,937,781	\$2,000,000	\$3,937,781
TOTAL	\$21,315,307	\$6,000,000	\$15,315,307