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April 29, 2026

Senator Chris Ryan
Senate Labor Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 946
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Chris Ryan,

I am writing on behalf of the members of IBEW Local 1249 in my capacity as Business Manager and Financial Secretary to express our support for Governor Kathy Hochul's proposal to improve injured workers' access to medical care.

As part of her 2026 State of the State agenda, the Governor has advanced legislation that would authorize all eligible, licensed health care providers to treat injured workers. This proposal removes an unnecessary and burdensome barrier to provider participation within New York State's workers' compensation system.

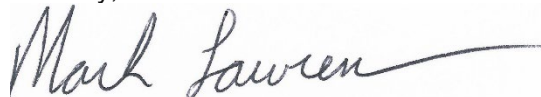
Expanding the pool of authorized providers will give injured workers greater access and choice in their care. It will allow them to seek treatment from their own primary care physicians, providers they know and trust, and who are already familiar with their medical history. Increased access will also reduce delays in treatment, minimize travel burdens, and support faster recovery times, helping workers return to their jobs safely and more quickly.

Health care providers in New York State are already subject to stringent licensing standards through the New York State Education Department and the Department of Health. Requiring an additional layer of authorization through the Workers' Compensation Board only serves to delay care and limit access. Removing this redundant process is a practical and necessary step toward improving outcomes for injured workers.

Our members depend on a system that prioritizes timely, effective medical care. This proposal represents a meaningful improvement that will better serve working men and women across our state.

I respectfully urge your support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Mark Lawrence
Business Manager & Financial Secretary
IBEW Local 1249