



New York State  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
FEDERATION AFL-CIO  
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# **SUPPORT**

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**S7078\Savino**  
**A10068\Abbate**

The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 58,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

This bill amends the Retirement and Social Security Law to allow certain employees at State University of New York (SUNY) to transfer membership from the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System (NYSLERS).

From 1994 through 2000, some employees in temporary nursing titles at SUNY were misinformed as to their retirement options and were directed to join the ORP. They should have been given the option of joining another retirement system such as NYSLERS. When these employees became permanent, they became members of the professional, scientific, and technical (PS&T) bargaining unit, members of which are represented by the Public Employees Federation. SUNY employees in non-faculty positions, who are members of the PS&T bargaining unit, are eligible for membership in NYSLERS exclusively. However, due to a provision in the Education Law, which prohibits an employee from transferring from the ORP to another retirement system so long as they are continuously employed by SUNY, these employees were unable to become members of NYSLERS.

This bill would provide the misinformed employees with the option they should have been afforded when they first became employed by SUNY. It would create a window in which members of the PS&T bargaining unit in the ORP hired by SUNY between 1994 and 2000 could apply for membership in NYSLERS. They would be entering NYSLERS as if they were new employees so there would be no cost to SUNY beyond what is normally contributed annually for any other member of the retirement system. If an employee who opts to join NYSLERS wishes to receive credit for past service, he or she – not SUNY – would be responsible for purchasing the credit at its full cost as determined by the Comptroller.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

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