



# ALBANY PULSE

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## SENATE GIVES FINAL LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO MONTGOMERY BILL AUTHORIZING NURSE PRACTITIONERS TO SIGN DEATH CERTIFICATES

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Senator Montgomery joined forces with nurse practitioners and NP students from Hunter College to garner support for the passage of her bill.



Senator Montgomery in the State Capitol with participants and supporters of the *Advocacy Academy*, a program sponsored by the **Center for Law and Social Justice** at **Medgar Evers College** and funded by the Senator.

The State Senate gave final legislative approval this week to Senator Montgomery's bill (S.325) permitting New York's more than 13,000 nurse practitioners to sign death certificates in the same manner as physicians and other authorized parties.

Senator Montgomery, a member of the Senate Health Committee, noted that current law allows nurse practitioners to pronounce death, ascertain the cause of death and provide the medical information required by the death certificate.

"Since nurse practitioners are frequently the medical professionals in last attendance when a patient passes away, it is only logical and appropriate that they be given the authority to certify the death. My bill will go a long way towards making an often arduous and emotionally charged process much smoother for the decedent's family and loved ones."

Nurse practitioners are permitted to sign death certificates in 17 other states.

Nurse practitioners are highly-skilled health care professionals who diagnose illness and physical conditions and perform therapeutic and corrective measures. In every-day actual practice, nurse practitioners conduct physical examinations of patients, order tests, prescribe medicine, devices and immunizing agents and, when appropriate, refer patients to other health care providers.

Senator Montgomery's legislation must be approved by the Governor before becoming law.