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**GOVERNOR HOCHUL PRIORITIES INCLUDE THE
NEEDS OF OLDER NEW YORKERS AND STATE'S LONG-TERM CARE COMMUNITIES**

The needs of older New Yorkers and a focused plan of action to address a workforce crisis in the long-term care sector are clear signs of engagement and understanding from Governor Kathy Hochul as she outlined her priorities for 2022, according to LeadingAge New York.

James Clyne, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York, said: "For the first time in recent memory, a Governor is taking meaningful steps to rebuild New York's approach to long-term care. Growing the health care workforce by 20 percent over the next five years is essential as older adults make up the most rapidly growing age group in the state."

Particularly noteworthy in the Governor's outline is the development of a State Master Plan for Aging and investment of \$10 billion in the health care workforce and health care infrastructure needs.

"The specificity of the items highlighted in the State of the State address, such as support for health care wages and retention bonuses and investment in affordable senior housing, went far beyond broad-based strokes and gestures," said Clyne. "Among the most immediate and practical actions is addressing the workforce with an expanded flexibility of direct care workers – notably, a proposal for a role for medication technicians in nursing homes to assist in providing timely administration of prescribed medications to residents."

LeadingAge New York is looking to the Executive Budget release and spending plan – on January 19 – for additional details regarding workforce initiatives and other investments in services for older adults and people with disabilities who need long-term care services.

The proposals outlined yesterday reflect and align with the recommendations developed and advanced by LeadingAge New York's work groups.

"This is just the beginning of the State Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget cycle, but we are pleased by the proposals we are seeing from the Governor thus far. Many of the proposals outlined in the State of the State are a result of the advocacy we all have done since the close of the 2021 Legislative Session," Clyne concluded.

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For more than 60 years, LeadingAge New York has set an advocacy agenda for not-for-profit and government-sponsored nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities and retirement communities. Since the onset of the public health emergency in March 2020, LeadingAge New York has been an outspoken voice for long-term care providers, caregivers and residents.