

MEMORANDUM

A.3922 (Cruz)/S.598 (May)

An act in relation to enacting the "reimagining long-term care task force" to create a task force to study the state of long-term care services in this state

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation, which would establish a long-term care (LTC) task force to examine the state of facility-based, home-based and community-based LTC services in the State and consider potential opportunities for improvement. It will examine both the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on LTC as well as the broader LTC system in New York, encompassing a wide range of service providers and housing models.

Demographic change has arrived in New York State. The oldest Baby Boomers are now in their 70s and beginning to need LTC services and supports. Between 2015 and 2040, the number of adults age 65 and over will increase by fifty percent, and the number of adults over 85 will double. Seventy percent of those over 65 will need LTC at some point in their lives. At the same time, the percentage of adults between the ages of 18 and 64 is shrinking. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, LTC providers were already struggling to fill needed direct care positions statewide and were under significant financial stress. The pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges. It is time for New York to stabilize and reshape its LTC delivery system and provide the support that it needs to care for an aging population.

This legislation will establish a Reimagining LTC Task Force with representation from a broad range of stakeholders, including LeadingAge New York. The task force will have two goals, the first of which is to examine the challenges and issues posed by the pandemic on New York's LTC system, producing a report on issues such as staffing shortages, visitation bans, infection control protocols and enforcement. Secondly, the group would make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on how the LTC system can better meet the needs of New Yorkers needing these services, while enhancing safety, affordability and quality of life. We agree that examining the LTC system in the context of the pandemic will provide valuable insights and illustrate the real world challenges inherent in the current framework, and set the stage for a more comprehensive, more holistic view of LTC and aging services in the State.

As the statewide representative of mission-based organizations providing a wide range of LTC and aging services, LeadingAge New York is prepared to actively participate in the task force. We would strongly recommend that the task force and the participating state agencies take full advantage of the deliberations and recommendations of the [LTC Planning project](#), which was recently overseen by the NYS Office for the Aging and the Department of Health.

For all of these reasons, LeadingAge New York strongly supports A.3922 (Cruz)/S.598 (May).

LeadingAge New York represents over 400 not-for-profit and public long-term care providers, including nursing homes, home care agencies, senior housing, retirement communities, assisted living, adult care facilities, adult day health care and managed long term care.