

MEMORANDUM

S.1846 (Skoufis)

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the public health law, in relation to providing residential and day services to certain individuals with a developmental disability; and establishing rates for such services

Currently, some assisted living programs (ALPs) in New York State are trying to serve special populations and are discovering that the ALP Medicaid rate is inadequate to provide the services needed. Such is the case for ALPs that are also licensed as Special Needs Assisted Living Residences (SNALRs) that serve the dementia population, as well as Camphill Ghent, which serves the developmentally disabled population.

There is a desperate need for assisted living services for low-income people who require specialized services due to dementia, developmental disability, traumatic brain injury (TBI), or other condition. In fact, there are many providers that are interested in providing these services. However, the future viability of the existing programs, much less the development of new ones, is in question if the rate is inadequate to address the resources needed to meet the specialized needs of the population. If the ALP is not an option, the individuals relying on these services will need to go to a nursing home, which is counter to the State's commitment to Olmstead and is ultimately costlier to the State.

Camphill is a unique program that seeks to integrate individuals with disabilities to live with those who are not disabled. They have high standards for staffing, including their training and preparation, to ensure high-quality, person-centered care. This is a model that should be supported and replicated in other parts of the state; however, this can only be accomplished with adequate funding.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports S.1846 (Skoufis) and urges that it be adopted.

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.