

MEMORANDUM

A.251 (Magnarelli)

An act to amend the public health law, in relation to Medicaid providers eligible for access funding under the vital access provider program

Recent enacted state budgets have included substantial capital and operational funding for Medicaid providers through programs such as the Vital Access Provider (VAP) program but have excluded critical providers from potentially accessing those funds. LeadingAge New York strongly supports A.251 (Magnarelli), which would rectify this.

It should be noted that Medicaid providers, which include the Assisted Living Program (ALP) and hospice, have not seen an increase in their Medicaid rate in years, while new mandates will dramatically increase the cost of providing care. In addition, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) rate for adult care facilities is inadequate, and previous budgets have failed to include an increase. Given these significant financial challenges, providers need access to funds to continue to meet the needs of the people they serve in an ever-changing environment. This bill does not create a new program; rather, it enables access to an existing funding opportunity.

A.251 (Magnarelli) makes ALPs eligible for funding under the VAP program. The VAP program provides funds to eligible providers to preserve access to services in areas experiencing provider restructuring, reconfiguration, and/or closure. VAP funds provide operational support and are not to support capital costs. ALPs should have the opportunity to apply for these funds, if they meet other VAP criteria.

ALPs and hospice are a vitally important part of the senior housing and health care continuum, and they too need financial support to continue to evolve in the rapidly changing health care environment. For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.251 (Magnarelli).

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.