

MEMORANDUM

A.124 (Gottfried)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries in rural areas

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation, which would authorize the integration of individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) sustained after age twenty-one into certified developmental disabilities (DD) programs.

LeadingAge New York represents not-for-profit long term care providers, including TBI service providers, as well as home care agencies and nursing homes. Due to the requirement that a disability must be sustained before age twenty-one in order to access DD services, our members often see individuals with TBI unnecessarily placed in nursing homes due to a severe lack of TBI community resources available in rural areas.

Oftentimes, these individuals could be served by local providers of DD services. Such services include medical, housing, vocational, educational, transportation, social, personal care, family support, day programs, community re-entry, outpatient rehabilitation, and habilitation. Access to these comprehensive services will ensure individuals with TBI can be served in a more integrated, more age-appropriate community-based setting, alongside their peers.

Since individuals with TBI already receive Medicaid, this bill will provide no additional cost to the State and may in fact save Medicaid dollars by keeping individuals out of higher cost nursing home settings.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.124 (Gottfried) and urges that it be adopted.

LeadingAge New York represents nearly 500 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.