

MEMORANDUM

A.8006 (Gottfried)/S.7626 (Rivera)

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the social services law, in relation to authorizing residents of assisted living programs to receive hospice services

LeadingAge New York strongly supports this legislation, which would allow Medicaid beneficiaries residing in Assisted Living Programs (ALPs) to access hospice services without having to transfer from the ALP.

Current Medicaid regulations and payment policy prevent terminally ill ALP residents from accessing hospice services. As a result, many residents are forced to leave their home in the ALP and transfer to a nursing home in their last few weeks of life. This end-of-life transfer creates additional burdens on the resident as well as their family during an already difficult time; not only must they cope with the terminal illness, but they must now also acclimate to new surroundings.

Enabling ALP residents to access hospice services in the ALP would help them to remain in a familiar location at the end of life and provide a significant savings for the State's Medicaid program. There were 7,900 individuals being served by ALPs at the end of 2016. It is estimated that if just 10 percent of ALP residents were to remain in the ALP rather than transfer to a nursing home to access hospice services, the Medicaid program would save an estimated \$1.3 million. While this savings is compelling, allowing individuals to remain in the place they call home in their last weeks of life is even more valuable.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.8006 (Gottfried)/S.7626 (Rivera) 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.

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