

MEMORANDUM

A.2437 (Jones)/S.496 (Stec)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to authorizing one or more demonstration projects that permit a managed long-term care plan to enroll persons that are permanently placed in a nursing home and to manage the nursing home benefit in one or more rural areas

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation, which would establish a demonstration program allowing one or more Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) plans that operate in rural counties and that have demonstrated success in transitioning individuals in need of a nursing home level of care from the nursing home to the community to enroll and manage the care of permanently placed nursing home residents for periods longer than three months.

Effective April 1, 2018, permanently placed nursing home residents who have resided in a nursing home for longer than three consecutive months are excluded from MLTC enrollment. While this approach may be appropriate in many areas of the state, in rural areas the coordination of services to facilitate the return of an individual with intensive care needs to the community from a nursing home may require additional time. A.2437 (Jones)/S.496 (Stec) would allow those plans and providers most able and interested in serving members who are permanently placed or are at greatest risk of permanent placement to continue partnering to do so and would allow individuals to continue to receive coordinated care tailored to their geographic realities.

It would be beneficial for the health care system to allow an MLTC plan serving rural communities that has invested time, money, effort, and expertise in developing systems and forging provider partnerships to manage the care for individuals in need, or at greatest risk, of long term nursing home care to continue enrolling and serving such members. This would maximize the possibility of these members being able to return to the community even after a potentially permanent nursing home placement of more than three months.

Individuals interested in living in the community should have the opportunity to do so, and this legislation would serve to broaden that opportunity. Avoiding or delaying permanent placement would both honor the preferences of individuals wishing to live in the community and save the State Medicaid dollars.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.2437 (Jones)/S.496 (Stec) 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.