



**For Immediate Release:**  
December 18, 2018

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**Legislation Providing Access to Hospice Services for  
ALP Residents Awaits Action by Governor**

Legislation providing terminally ill residents of Assisted Living Programs (ALPs) access to hospice services remains a piece of unfinished business at the Capitol and Governor Cuomo must act upon the measure prior to the end of the year.

If signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo, the measure will modify current Medicaid regulations and payment policy that prevent terminally ill residents of Assisted Living Programs (ALPs) from accessing hospice services. As a result, many 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.

"Hospice services provide peace and comfort for the terminally ill and are consistent with various measures of healthcare designed to provide the least restrictive environment possible," said Ami Schnauber, Vice President of Advocacy and Policy for LeadingAge New York. "Maintaining familiarity and routine is a comfort to both the resident and their family."

The legislation was sponsored by Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (A.10459A) and Senator Kemp Hannon (S.8353A). The bill was unanimously approved by the Assembly and the State Senate.

Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Aging Committee Chair stated, "I was surprised to learn that residents in an Assisted Living Program could not access hospice services. This law will help people stay in their homes while saving the state the cost of more expensive nursing home care for those on Medicaid. This humane public policy will protect our loved ones during end of life care."

Senator Kemp Hannon, Health Committee Chair stated, "Remaining home during a terminal illness is very important to many patients and their families. By signing this

legislation into law, Governor Cuomo will ensure that individuals living in an Assisted Living Program can get hospice services and remain in their home.”

According to the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS) nearly 1.4 million individuals nationally, and 50,000 New Yorkers, receive hospice care annually.

Carla Braveman, President and CEO of HPCANYS said: “With the stroke of a pen, Governor Cuomo can remedy a situation in which those residing in an assisted living, at the end of their life, are ineligible for comfort care because of an inconsistent policy. Hospice Care is a Medicare approved benefit, and for those in assisted living, a reasonable, rational and appropriate care option.”

According to LeadingAge NY, if signed into law, the measure is expected to provide an estimated \$1.3 million in savings to the Medicaid program.

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LeadingAge New York represents not-for-profit, mission-driven and public continuing care providers, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living and community service providers. LeadingAge New York's more than 600 members employ 150,000 professionals serving more than 500,000 New Yorkers annually.