



For Immediate Release:

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Statement from LeadingAge New York on Governor Hochul's State of the State Address: Older New Yorkers Must be Included in the Fight for Our Families

The following statement can be attributed to Sebrina Barrett, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York:

“New York’s growing number of older adults are a vital and vibrant part of New Yorkers’ families; they are our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. When New York prioritizes our families, the State cannot continue to leave older adults out of the fight. We support the Governor’s emphasis on families and affordability, but we implore the Governor to provide financial relief to help address the real challenges faced by those who care for older adults and their families when long-term care needs arise.

“While we commend the Governor for acknowledging the significant challenges families face in securing childcare, we cannot ignore the striking parallels confronting families who care for aging loved ones. As the population of older adults continues to grow, more individuals require full-time care. Yet, long-term care providers are forced to close or reduce services due to funding inadequacies.

“Too often, family members are compelled to leave the workforce or significantly reduce their employment to care for aging parents, creating an emotional, physical, and financial strain for families across the state. Many older adults want to age in place; of course, this requires robust home and community-based care services, which are also struggling with funding.

“These challenges extend far beyond individual providers. The instability of the long-term care sector sends shockwaves throughout the entire healthcare system, placing additional strain on hospitals, emergency departments, and other community-based services.

“Access to quality long-term care is a critical issue affecting countless New Yorkers. Without adequate funding, closures of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care agencies and more will continue to impact our families and communities. We look to Governor Hochul’s upcoming Executive Budget and remain hopeful that her Administration

will prioritize long-term care funding in her fight for our families. LeadingAge New York remains fully committed to advocating for increased funding for long-term care and aging services, stronger policies, and expanded access to care, and we will continue to fight on behalf of our members and the New Yorkers they serve.”

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About LeadingAge New York

LeadingAge New York represents more than 350 not-for-profit, mission-driven and public long-term care providers, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living and community service providers.