

MEMORANDUM

S.1687 (Ritchie)

An act to amend the social services law, in relation to the personal expense allowance for residents of residential health care facilities receiving or eligible to receive supplemental security income payments and/or additional state payments

LeadingAge New York supports this bill that would increase the monthly personal needs allowance to those residents of residential health care facilities receiving or eligible to receive additional state payments. This is long overdue, as the current allowance rates were set by law extending back 20 years or more. Residents have stretched their allowance as far as possible, and an increase to \$100 a month would go a long way. For many residents, this allowance makes up all of the extra spending money they receive, and an additional \$50 would be beneficial; it is important that we allow for the comforts of life for our elderly citizens as they age.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports the efforts to increase the personal allowance of eligible residents of a residential health care facility and urges that S.1687 (Ritchie) be adopted.

LeadingAge New York represents nearly 600 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.