

November 17, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: A.1926 (Gonzalez-Rojas)/S.1683-A (Hinchey)

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of its not-for-profit, mission-driven members, LeadingAge New York urges you to support A.1926 (Gonzalez-Rojas)/S.1683-A (Hinchey), a bill which amends the Public Health Law to require the commissioner of health to publish certain information relating to home care services usage on the department's website on an annual basis - including the number of individuals receiving care, the hours and range of services authorized, the number of permanent transfers to more intensive settings and aggregated service usage.

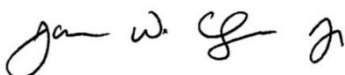
LeadingAge New York supports making data like this public and transparent, as it will assist the state and localities to plan and better serve individuals who need long-term care services. Sharing this information broadly with stakeholders would help to establish a viable path forward to meet the needs of the rapidly growing demographic of older individuals and those with physical and cognitive disabilities. New York has been experiencing a scarcity of home care in communities for several years resulting in extensive wait lists. Skilled home care is also increasingly difficult to obtain due to staffing shortages and reimbursement challenges. The information made available by this bill will provide a more comprehensive picture of the landscape and challenges at hand by providing data on the amount of authorized home care services provided to New Yorkers, the range of authorized services provided, and the rate at which individuals in the community are seeking more intensive settings to serve their needs.

The publication of this data should not impose new reporting requirements on providers or managed care plans. In the implementation of this legislation, we would expect the state to use data currently reported through existing mechanisms, rather than require additional reporting from providers or managed care plans that already carry out a significant amount of reporting. Most, if not all, of the information required by this bill is already provided by home care providers in the Licensed Home Care Services Agencies Statistical Report and the Home Care Cost Report.

Further, some of data elements set forth in the bill are not clearly defined. If enacted, we urge the Department of Health to work with stakeholders to accurately and appropriately describe the information published.

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation and continued efforts by the state to create a strong framework and quality resources for individuals of all socioeconomic levels to age in their preferred place and with high-quality services. LeadingAge New York supports A.1926/S.1683-A and requests that it be signed into law.

Sincerely,



James W. Clyne, Jr.
President and CEO
LeadingAge New York