

December 15, 2021

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

Re: A.3922-A/S.598-B

Dear Governor Hochul,

LeadingAge New York and its not-for-profit, mission-driven members write to you today in support of legislation A.3922-A (Cruz)/S.598-B (May), a bill which would establish a long-term care (LTC) task force to examine the state of facility-based, home-based and community-based LTC services in New York and consider potential opportunities for improvement. The task force will examine impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the continuum of LTC in New York and reimagine how the State can better meet the needs of New Yorkers who require LTC.

Demographic change has arrived in New York State. The oldest Baby Boomers are now in their mid-70s and beginning to need LTC services and supports. Between 2015 and 2040, the number of adults aged 65 and over will increase by fifty percent, and the number of adults over 85 will double. Seventy percent of those over 65 will need LTC at some point in their lives. At the same time, the percentage of adults between the ages of 18 and 64 is shrinking. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, LTC providers were struggling to fill needed direct care positions statewide and were under significant financial stress. The pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges. It is time for New York to invest in and revitalize its LTC delivery system and provide the support that it needs to care for an aging population.

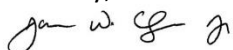
The “Reimagining LTC Task Force” will include representation from a broad range of stakeholders, including LeadingAge New York, and cover an array of providers and services. The task force will have two goals, the first of which is to examine the challenges posed by the pandemic for New York’s LTC system, producing a report on these issues. Secondly, the group will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on how New York’s LTC system can better meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in any future emergency.

Examining the LTC system in a holistic manner, especially in the context of the pandemic, will provide valuable insights and illustrate the real-world challenges inherent in the current regulatory, financing, and workforce development frameworks. These insights will provide a sound foundation for comprehensive recommendations to revitalize our LTC system and prepare to meet the needs of our growing population of older adults. In fact, we would urge the State to expand the scope of the task force recommendations to encompass more than the future emergency needs of clients and residents, but also their ongoing, every-day needs.

As the statewide representative of mission-based organizations providing a wide range of LTC and aging services, LeadingAge New York is prepared to actively participate in the task force. We would also recommend that the task force and the participating state agencies take advantage of the information gathered through the [LTC Planning Project](#), convened by the NYS Office for the Aging and the Department of Health in 2019.

For these reasons, LeadingAge NY strongly supports this legislation and recommends that it be signed into law.

Sincerely,



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