

November 17, 2023

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

Re: A.5520 (Kim)/ S.5907 (Cleare)

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of its not-for-profit, mission-driven members, LeadingAge New York urges you to enact A.5520 (Kim)/ S.5907 (Cleare), a bill which directs the State Office for the Aging to conduct a study on the number of older adults residing in naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC) or neighborhood naturally occurring retirement communities (NNORC) who are suffering from social isolation and loneliness.

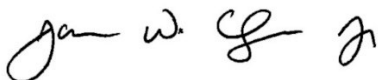
Older New Yorkers were particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic for health reasons, but they also suffered acutely from isolation and loneliness. This is not a new dynamic for older individuals, but it was exacerbated by COVID-19 and continues despite the general return to pre-pandemic daily living. Numerous research studies identify socialization and connection with individuals, friends and family as a positive social determinant of health for all age levels. Isolation and loneliness are known to be significant contributors to poor health outcomes.

This legislation calls for more research to identify the number of N/NORC residents suffering from loneliness and isolation, programs currently in place to foster socialization, and potential new programs that could be delivered through the N/NORC program.

LeadingAge New York fully supports bringing this important issue to the forefront for older New Yorkers. A heightened focus on the N/NORC population will contribute to the foundation of the program's intent to support the health and welfare of older individuals as they age in place and in their communities.

LeadingAge New York supports A.5520/S.5907 and urges that it be signed into law.

Sincerely,



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