



July 21, 2021

Ms. Tina Kim, Assistant Secretary for Health
Ms. Rachel Baker, Assistant Secretary for Health
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Ms. Kim and Ms. Baker:

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA), LeadingAge New York, and the New York State Association of Health Care Providers (HCP) are writing to collectively urge you to consider extending regulatory relief measures that were instituted via Executive Orders and/or state Department of Health (DOH) guidance during the COVID-19 emergency that would continue to benefit the individuals served by our provider memberships. Together, our associations represent home care, hospices, managed long term care plans, senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes, and others.

Since the Governor announced the end of the State's declared COVID-19 emergency, we must emphasize the pandemic's continued, severe impact on health care providers and their patients. Providers and managed long term care plans continue to require regulatory and fiscal considerations to support each sector's capability to provide services, protect patients, support the workforce to address severe shortages and maintain the operational efficiencies provided in the state's COVID-era Executive Orders, state directives, waivers and other procedural guidance.

Flexibility and support in these areas are especially critical to addressing the dire workforce shortages for paraprofessionals and professionals. Providers and plans across the state cite the workforce and operational impact of the pandemic to be at emergency and worsening levels. Accordingly, we urge the Governor and DOH to continue essential regulatory and procedural flexibility measures granted to the provider types represented by our associations and as we enter the post-COVID-19 stage.

We are eager to work with the you and the Department to ensure essential supports are retained for providers and plans.

We respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Al Cardillo
President/CEO
HCA

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

Kathy Febraio, CAE
President/CEO
HCP