

December 17, 2024

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

Re: A.7369 (McDonald)/S.2867 (Rivera)

Dear Governor Hochul,

LeadingAge New York and its not-for-profit, mission-driven members write to you today in support of A.7369 (McDonald)/S.2867 (Rivera). This legislation would allow individuals receiving Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) waiver services to continue to receive such services outside of managed care programs.

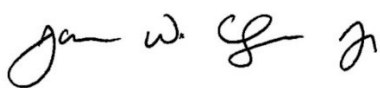
This legislation would ensure that individuals with a TBI and those qualifying for NHTD services receive the specialized care they need without lapses or unnecessary issues in transitioning services. Today, managed care plans are quite busy handling numerous diverse and complex populations, and the landscape of managed long-term care in recent years is frequently changing. Adding the high-acuity population of TBI/NHTD service recipients into managed care would add to the already complex environment of managed care, and unnecessarily risk disrupting care of many individuals currently benefiting from waiver services.

LeadingAge NY represents not-for-profit long term care providers, including TBI and NHTD service providers, as well as managed care plans and we were here when New York moved the nursing home benefit into Managed Long Term Care in July 2015. With the challenges facing the long-term care continuum and continued downward pressure on MLTC rates, plans might struggle to manage the complex and unique needs of individuals in the TBI and NHTD programs and the services they receive.

Moreover, there are no cost savings associated with moving TBI/NHTD services into managed care. Given the complexities and specialized nature of care required for these individuals, the anticipated administrative and care management costs would likely offset any perceived potential of savings.

Medicaid Managed Care and Managed Long Term Care plans have faced significant programmatic changes in recent years. In addition, the TBI/NHTD waivers in place are serving recipients well. Therefore, maintaining the current structure for TBI/NHTD services is in the best interest of consumers and all stakeholders. For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.7369 (McDonald)/S.2867 (Rivera) and urges that it be enacted into law.

Sincerely,



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