

## MEMORANDUM

### A.3390 (Eachus)/S.6475 (Cleare)

#### *AN ACT to amend the public housing law, in relation to establishing a senior housing task force*

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation which would create a Senior Housing Task Force to assess and report on senior housing needs and to review innovative approaches that have been successfully implemented in New York State and other states.

As the percentage of older New Yorkers steadily increases, the State's spending plans must evolve to address the housing-related needs of middle-income older adults. New York is home to approximately 3.6 million residents aged 65 and older, representing more than 18 percent of the population. Both the number and percentage of older New Yorkers are expected to continue to rise over the coming years, with nearly 20 percent of New York's population projected to be aged 65 or older by 2026.

More than \$400 million in capital has been committed to the development of affordable rental housing targeted to low-income older adults in recent five-year State spending plans, but without complementary operational funding, many of these properties struggle to connect their low-income residents with aging-related community supports and services that could help them stay healthy and age in place.

Additionally, by 2029, the population of older adults who are too wealthy to qualify for admission to these properties, but not wealthy enough to afford market-rate rentals with appropriate aging services, is projected to comprise 43 percent of the senior population. However, funds included in recent five-year spending plans for Homes and Community Renewal for middle-income rental development are generally committed to projects serving individuals and families, limiting the options available to and appropriate for middle-income older adults who are more likely to struggle with their mobility, health, and activities of daily living. This population is at risk of spending down to Medicaid levels and unnecessarily accessing a higher level of care due to lack of appropriate housing options that are affordable for them.

By bringing together representatives from a broad array of New York State and City agencies, as well service providers, associations, advocates, and consumers of senior living options spanning the continuum of senior care and the various regions of New York State, the task force proposed by this legislation would help to ensure that future State housing spending plans and policies are balanced and effective for New York's aging population.

**For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.3390 (Eachus)/S.6475 (Cleare) and urges its adoption.**

*LeadingAge New York represents over 350 not-for-profit and public long-term care providers, including nursing homes, home care agencies, senior housing, retirement communities, assisted living, adult care facilities, adult day health care and managed long term care.*

Contact: Sarah Daly at [sdaly@leadingageny.org](mailto:sdaly@leadingageny.org)