

## MEMORANDUM

**A.11368 (Cook)/S.10066 (Stavisky)**

### **AN ACT to amend chapter 534 of the laws of 1993, amending the education law relating to physical therapy assistants, in relation to the effectiveness thereof**

LeadingAge New York supports this legislation which amends the New York State Education Law to extend provisions that allow physical therapist assistants (PTAs) to work and provide physical therapy care in home care settings. The current law is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. This bill would extend those provisions for four additional years, through June 30, 2030, so that the existing framework may remain in effect without interruption.

This legislation simply extends a practice that has been in place, successfully, since 1993. The legislation provides sufficient safeguards to ensure the services provided are appropriate to the needs of the recipient and provided according to the treatment plan. There is also a mechanism to ensure that the treatment plan is adjusted if necessary. Failing to extend this authorization would jeopardize access to needed services.

The workforce challenges that plague the delivery of in-home services have only grown more acute since 1993. While demand for home and community-based care is soaring due to the rapidly growing number of adults over age 65, inadequate Medicaid rates, increased costs of care delivery, and unprecedented workforce shortages have destabilized access to home care options. Home care agencies are often forced to limit patient admissions and create waiting lists because they are unable to find sufficient staff. This has repercussions for the entire health care system, but most importantly, staffing challenges directly impact access to care for older adults who wish to remain living in their homes, with their families. Failing to extend this authorization would only worsen existing access to care issues, and jeopardize the rehabilitation of people seeking to successfully remain in their homes.

**For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.11368 (Cook)/S.10066 (Stavisky).**

*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, [sdaly@leadingageny.org](mailto:sdaly@leadingageny.org)