

Memorandum of Support



Al Cardillo
President

Alex Fitz
Chief of External &
Strategic Affairs

Andrew Koski
Vice President,
Program Services &
Policy

Patrick Conole
Vice President, Finance
& Management

Celisia Street
Vice President of
Workforce
Development &
Innovation

Arianna Stone
Director for Research
& Development

Taylor Perre
Senior Associate for
Public Health & Policy

Kaylee White
Associate for Public
Health & Policy

HCA, New York State's
home care association,
represents hundreds of
providers and
thousands of staff who
collectively provide
health care to hundreds
of thousands of New
Yorkers.

HCA members include
Certified Home Health
Agencies, Licensed
Home Care Services
Agencies, Long Term
Home Health Care
Programs, Hospices,
Managed Long Term
Care/PACE Plans,
Consumer Directed
Personal Assisted
Programs, waiver
programs, allied health
and health support
organizations.

To: The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State

Re: S.1451 (Sanders)/A.782 (Peoples-Stokes)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to collaborative models for
addressing health care disparities

Date: November 29, 2023

Legislation to facilitate collaborative models of addressing health disparities, S.1451/A.782, has passed both houses of the Legislature and today delivered for gubernatorial approval.

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) ***strongly supports*** this essential health and cost-savings legislation, and urges its signature into law.

This legislation's innovative approach leverages the state's Hospital-Home Care-Physician Collaborative Program (public health law 2805-x) to support initiatives to address disparities in health care access, treatment and/or conditions of higher prevalence in certain populations such as racial and ethnic minority groups; persons with disabilities; women; the poor; and persons living in rural and other medically underserved and underserved geographic areas.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared that "of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." It is indeed among the most tragic and costly individually, and across society.

This legislation would harness core partners within the continuum of care for coordinated, multilevel disparities intervention. According to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council and the NYS Prevention Agenda, "ensuring that health care is culturally and linguistically competent, accessible and available to all are keys to reducing health and health care disparities." The legislation fully syncs with these goals as well as with the state procurement of a new federal waiver addressing diversity and disparities in health care.

By authorizing programs of collaboration between hospitals, home care agencies, physicians, and other partners targeted at disparities, S.1451/A.782 encourages health care innovations designed to improve health outcomes for underserved persons and reduce health care costs within the state. Within these partnerships, home health providers are especially and uniquely positioned to provide culturally competent and person-center interventions in the homes, neighborhoods and communities where people truly spend their lives, and experience the social determinants.

HCA is an impassioned supporter of S.1451/A.782, and now leads a multiyear, multilevel, and philanthropy-supported initiative in addressing health disparities <https://hca-nys.org/addressing-health-disparities-through-home-care/>. Home care's significance in disparities is further borne in <https://hca-nys.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/HCA-Addressing-Disparities-Through-Home-Care-2019.pdf>, and in <https://hca-nys.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/COMPENDIUM-OF-STATEWIDE-HOSPITAL-HOME-CARE-COLLABORATIVE-MODELS.pdf>.

Governor Hochul, HCA respectfully urges your signature of this timely and critically important legislation, and looks forward to the further partnership opportunities with you and your Administration that this legislation offers in making NYS a leader in combatting health disparities.