



NEW YORK
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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT A.10707 (Bronson)

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to making care and services provided by licensed mental health practitioners eligible for coverage under the Medicaid program

The New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (New York Alliance) supports A.10707, legislation to enable mental health practitioners, licensed pursuant to Article 163 of the Education Law, to be authorized Medicaid providers.

The New York Alliance is a statewide association representing 175 not-for-profit provider agencies serving people with disabilities. The New York Alliance envisions a society where people with disabilities are contributing citizens with equal rights and the ability to live full, productive and meaningful lives. The association is the result of ongoing efforts to merge two associations: the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies and the New York State Rehabilitation Association.

The bill is necessary to improve access to behavioral health services at a time when the demand for behavioral health services is higher than ever before and when the workforce shortages are a serious concern. This bill will not expand Medicaid eligibility, but rather allow Medicaid eligible individuals to access care to which they are entitled and treatment that has already been determined to be medically necessary. As Medicaid Redesign introduces a higher volume of home and community-based services (HCBS) for both children and adults in the behavioral health sector, the need for mental health practitioners who are appropriately licensed and trained will increase.

In 2011, the New York State Office of Mental Health produced a report authorized by the Legislature in 2007. The report, entitled, “Unmet Needs Assessment Report – Statewide Assessment of Treatment Gaps for Racial/Ethnic Groups in Need of Mental Health Services”, found that the shortage of mental health providers is a factor for many underserved populations including but not limited to: people with limited English Language Proficiency, those with unmet housing needs, individuals with criminal justice contact, men and women living in rural communities and members of the LBGTQ community. A bill that will increase the ability of licensed mental health practitioners to serve Medicaid eligible individuals and families will help address treatment gaps.



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Therefore the New York Alliance supports the measure and urges the passage of A.10707 by the New York State Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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