

March 22, 2017
Memo #8: Senate & Assembly Floor

Support Home Care in New York State! HCP Priority Positions on Senate and Assembly Budget Proposals

The New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc. (HCP) greatly appreciates the Legislature's commitment to ensuring that home care providers across the State can continue to provide quality care to the State's most vulnerable citizens—elderly, disabled, and chronically-ill New Yorkers.

HCP urges you to ensure that the following provisions critical to maintaining a viable home care industry in New York are addressed in the final FY 2017-18 State Budget:

- **Adequate Reimbursement:** While the Assembly, Senate, and Governor's Budget proposals all include funding for the minimum wage increase and for Home Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention (R&R), the law must be amended to ensure that these funds flow through to home care providers as intended. HCP supports the Assembly's language requiring adequate reimbursement of home care providers by Medicaid managed care plans. (A.3007-A, Part W, Section 3)
- **Recruitment & Retention Funds:** HCP thanks the Senate and Assembly for including language requiring greater oversight and transparency over how Medicaid managed care plans disburse R&R funds to home care providers. (S.2007-A, Part E; A.3007-A, Part W)
- **Health Care Facility Transformation Funding:** HCP supports providing at least \$125 million through this program for home and community-based care providers, particularly for investments in health care information technology.
- **Workers' Compensation Reform:** HCP urges enactment of Workers' Compensation reforms in the State Budget to reduce employers' costs while maintaining necessary protections for injured workers. HCP supports proposals to update the durational caps and scheduled loss of use awards, ensure prompt access to quality medical care and lost wage benefits, enhance incentives for workplace safety programs, and implement an efficient hearing process.
- **High-Need Rate Cells:** HCP recommends further study of the potential fiscal impacts of this proposal on long term home care services for enrollees that are not considered "high-need," including the need for additional funding to support this proposal. HCP also recommends amendments to both the Senate and Assembly proposals regarding proposed assessment tools and reporting requirements.
- **CDPAS Program:** HCP recommends amendments to proposals in both Houses related to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS) program, to ensure that home care agencies serving as fiscal intermediaries (FIs) are adequately reimbursed for additional Wage Parity costs and are not unduly burdened by proposed certification requirements.

For more information, contact HCP at 518.463.1118 or Reid, McNally & Savage at 518.465.7330.