



May 3, 2022

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT
A.9575 (Solages)/S.1593 (Rivera)**

An act to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing certain adult care facilities to arrange for limited nursing services

Hospice programs provide medical and social supports to individuals with a life-limiting illness so that they receive end-of-life palliative care in their chosen environment. New York State and Federal regulations allow hospice care to be provided in both home-based and institutional settings, including the individual's home, the home of a relative or friend, free-standing Hospice residences, general hospitals, and in skilled nursing facilities, which include ACF and assisted living facilities.

HPCANYS supports the option of those settings which employ nurses to provide those services directly. Many ACF and assisted living providers that are the chosen residences of hospice patients in New York employ nurses. However, the only facilities permitted to provide nursing services directly are licensed Enhanced Assisted Living Residences (EALR), which allow for "aging in place." Therefore, when residents of facilities without EALR licensure have a nursing need, the on-site nurse cannot legally assist the resident. Instead, the facility must bring in a third party to provide the service, or call 911. This is not a person-centered approach to care and often contradicts the hospice patients individualized care plan. This legislation would allow nurses in those settings to provide services directly within their scope of practice.

We urge the legislature to move forward on this issue, so that hospice patients in ACF and assisted living facilities that employ nurses will receive needed services. This bill provides a common sense and person-centered approach to ACF and assisted living services, which is consistent with federal and state policy and the mission of hospice.

Restoring and preserving health care rights of all New Yorkers with a life-limiting illness is paramount. Therefore, the Association supports the immediate passage of A.9575 (Solages)/S.1593 (Rivera.)

The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS) is the only statewide association that exclusively represents the State's licensed hospice providers and palliative care providers, as well as individuals and organizations concerned with care for patients at the end of life. Hospice care is a team-oriented approach to expert medical care, pain management, emotional, and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Our vision is that all persons who are seriously ill receive a full spectrum of care to maximize their quality of life according to their own values, goals, and preferences.

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