

# Memorandum of Support

## on Senate Health Agenda May 15, 2024



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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.

*"Helping New Yorkers  
Feel Right at Home"*

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

**Re: S.4784 (Rivera / A.7174 (Paulin))**

***An act to amend the public health law, in relation to authorizing collaborative programs for community paramedicine services***

**Date: May 2024**

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) ***strongly supports S.4784 by Senator Rivera / A.7174 by Assemblywoman Paulin***, providing the opportunity for community health partners to jointly develop and provide collaborative programs of community paramedicine services under the state's Hospital-Homecare-Physician Collaboration Law.

The bill facilitates the capability of hospitals, home care agencies, physicians, and emergency medical services (EMS) to work together in the provision and coordination of services for vulnerable, at-risk individuals. The goal is to integrate services to help meet the health and safety needs of this vulnerable population in home and community settings (e.g., individuals with heart failure, COPD, diabetes, falls-risk, transition from hospital or nursing home to home, etc.), address system gaps, avert hospitalizations and emergency episodes and visits, improve the local community health system, save health care costs, and more.

The bill helps support this by allowing providers to seek, and the State Department of Health to authorize, procedural flexibility and/or fiscal flexibility or grant funds as may be available, for partners to collaborate in the provision of these services. The Hospital-Homecare-Physician collaboration law was created in 2015 to support provider partnering to address critical health care and community support goals. This bill adds opportunity for EMS to join in these partnerships through proposed plans and models in community medicine and paramedicine that are organically derived and developed at the community level, and tailored to the specific needs, resources and residents of the respective community. Given the crises in workforce and service capacity across the health care system, this collaborative initiative in community medicine and paramedicine offers the opportunity for utilization, coordination and optimization of resources to bridge these gaps, overcome barriers and maximize efficiencies in the care of patients and community service.

The bill specifically provides that under these models, providers may develop and implement a plan for the collaborative provision of services in community settings, and that, "in addition to emergency services provided under article thirty of the public health law, such models of community paramedicine may include collaborative services to at-risk individuals living in the community to prevent emergencies, avoidable emergency room need, avoidable transport and potentially avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions."

Currently, HCA, the Iroquois Healthcare Association (IHA), and IPRO (the federally contracted Quality Improvement Organization for the NYS region), with the grant support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, have partnered to work with hospitals, home health agencies, physicians, emergency medical service organizations and other key community partners to develop and pilot Collaborative Models of Community Medicine and Paramedicine. Under the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation grant, HCA, IHA and IPRO have been assisting provider partners in six (soon to be seven) regions of the state to develop and implement these service models. Experience is showing these models to have a powerful supportive, preventive and cost-effective impact. This initiative serves as an example of, and mirrors the start of, what could be much further accomplished if this legislation were enacted. Attached is a brief summary of this program to date.

HCA supports and urges the enactment of this important and timely legislation S.4784/A.7174 to support health system partners' capability to work together in support patient care and community service need.