

# HCA MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT



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HCA, New York State's premier home care association, represents more than 400 providers, individuals and associate members who collectively serve thousands of New Yorkers.

Home care encompasses a broad spectrum of services delivered at home to patients who are disabled, chronically ill, recovering from an illness, or have other health-related needs that can be met in the home setting.

"Helping New Yorkers **Feel Right** at Home"

**To:** Members of the New York State Legislature

**Re:** S.5852 (Young) Amends chapter 6 of 2015 related to telehealth services, to provide for clarifications, technical amendments and long term care plan provisions for these services

**Date:** June 2015

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) strongly supports legislation, S.5852, amending chapter 6 of 2015 in further support of telehealth services in New York.

New York's home telehealth program and providers have been national leaders in applying this innovative technology to the care and medical management of patients, demonstrating improved patient outcomes, avoidance of preventable hospital and emergency room use, cost-savings to the system, and other critical health and system benefits.

HCA applauds Senator Young and Assemblywoman Russell for sponsoring and championing the passage of chapter 6, which effective January 1, 2016, provides for telehealth coverage under insurance policies and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) contracts in the state. HCA further commends the sponsorship of the S.5852 amendments which are critical to ensuring that provisions set forth related to home care under chapter 6 function as intended for patients and for the goals of the new law.

The amendments:

- Make clarifications and technical amendments to chapter 6 to ensure that the new public health law (PHL) article 2999-cc created for telehealth (including telehealth delivered via home care providers) does not inadvertently conflict with home telehealth provisions in PHL section 3614, or article 36 (home health services) generally, both of which preceded the new article.
- Clarify that remote monitoring of an individual at home via telehealth is not to be construed as an in-home "visit" for purposes of any number limits on such in-home visits to a patient by a nurse, physical therapist, home health aide, etc., that might exist under a covered person's policy.
- Incorporate telehealth coverage provisions for home care within the definition of home care contained in state-approved long term care insurance policies, mirroring provisions enacted by chapter 6 coverage for hospital, medical and surgical policies and health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts.

HCA is urges the passage of this legislation by the members of Legislature and the Governor.