



**New York State Association of
Area Agencies on Aging**

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Memorandum in Support of S. 4796-A

Requires hospitals to provide patients in need of long-term care with long-term care contact information for the NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Program

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NYSAAAA) supports S. 4796-A, legislation which would amend the public health law and the elder law to require hospitals to provide long-term care contact information for the NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Program or the individuals' county area agency on aging office when an individual is discharged from the hospital and there is the possibility that they will require long-term care.

The NY Connects program provides locally accessible, consumer centered access points to seniors seeking information about long term care options. Seniors are provided with linkages to services and are able to make informed decisions about their long term care needs, as well as streamline access to long term care services and supports. NY Connects enhances the delivery of long-term care services through a single coordinated system of long-term care information and assistance that minimizes confusion, supports informed decision-making and enhances consumer choice. NY Connects also helps seniors identify suitable levels of care and types of services to prevent or delay the need for costly institutional care.

With the requirement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to improve the transitions of care from an institutional setting, as well as the goal of reducing the number of hospital readmissions, the NY Connects program becomes a vital part of the process to achieving those ends. Hospital discharge plans are designed for the short term; the NY Connects program is designed to provide assistance for the long term.

For these reasons, NYSAAAA supports the bill.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Cameron
Executive Director