



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

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Memorandum in Support of S. 5077

An act to amend the elder law, in relation to authorizing certain county operated NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care programs to participate in a universal assessment demonstration program

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NYSAAAA) supports S. 5077; legislation that would require the director of the state office for the aging to select one or more county operators of the NY Connect Program to develop a universal assessment system for determining the appropriate level of care for older new Yorkers seeking long term care.

New York's long term care system has a wide range of inter-connected services and programs. The state's home and community-based programs lack standardization and common language. For individuals in need of long term care services, navigating New York State's long term care system can be challenging and a universal assessment system will help create standardization in determining the appropriate level of long term care.

A uniform assessment system is necessary to provide appropriate long term care to New Yorkers. The NYS Department of Health is currently developing a Universal Assessment Tool that will also be piloted at the county level. It is our understanding that these assessment tools will be developed in conjunction with each other.

For these reasons, NYSAAAA supports the bill.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Cameron
Executive Director