



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

S. 8200 – Marcellino / A. 10442 - Gunther

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

The bill amends section 13.17 of the Mental Hygiene law by adding a new subdivision (e) to prohibit the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) from privatizing any existing state-operated Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA).

IRAs are small community-based facilities that allow clients to receive high-quality residential care while also receiving community-based supports such as day habilitation, prevocational services, and supported employment programs. IRAs are the model for what the state has stated is the future of residential programs for OPWDD clients. Despite this, the State continuously privatizes and closes state-operated IRAs.

Thousands of OPWDD clients are currently waiting for an opportunity to enter a residential program, many times because their primary caregiver is no longer able care for them at home. Enacting this legislation will ensure that the state does not make it even more difficult for clients on a waiting list to receive the residential opportunities that they need.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA strongly urges the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director