



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

S.5772 - Carlucci

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This legislation amends the mental hygiene and executive law to require a written report to the legislature at least one year prior to the closure of a facility operated by the Office of Mental Health, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, and the Office for Children & Family Services. In addition, if the legislature finds that the proposed closure is not justified then the closure cannot occur until it is approved by a majority vote of each house of the legislature.

Over the past several years, the state has eliminated mental health treatment beds, residential service opportunities for the developmentally disabled and juvenile justice treatment options. Many of these closures have happened haphazardly and in a way that has disrupted the care for clients and patients as well as the lives of the workers at these facilities.

This legislation would create a more methodical and thoughtful system of downsizing and closing state operated facilities. The state legislature and the public at-large would have the ability to closely examine a closure proposal to determine its potential impact on the state's residents. If a closure creates a negative impact, the legislature will have the ability to reject it. This legislation will ensure a greater discourse surrounding the closure of a facility and will allow any final decision to be in the best interest of the most vulnerable residents of our state.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director