



# S U P P O R T

## MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

### **A. 7199 – Gunther / S. 5315 - Carlucci**

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This legislation amends section 13.17(d) of the mental hygiene law to require the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to give 90 days' notice when suspending services at a state-operated Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA).

Current state law requires OPWDD to give 90 days' notice prior to closing or transferring an IRA. This was done to ensure that residents of these homes and the staff are given a minimum amount of time to prepare for an auspice change or closure. Recently, OPWDD has proposed to suspend services at several IRAs. The use of this term has allowed them to circumvent the 90-day notice requirement.

When the legislature and Governor enacted the current statute, it was to ensure that residents and their families had enough time to prepare for new staff or for transfer to a new home. For employees, it was to ensure that they had an opportunity to find a new facility to work at within OPWDD. When OPWDD invents a new term simply to get around this notice requirement, it is a clear violation of the spirit of this law and is a disservice to residents and staff.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across the state, CSEA strongly urges the approval of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner  
Director