



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

A.5364 – Gunther / S.4998 - Mannion

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This legislation extends statutory authority for OPWDD community based programs for three years.

OPWDD care demonstration programs utilize the state workforce for certain community based programs, including community habilitation, in-home respite, pathways to employment, supported employment, and community pre-vocational. These programs have specifically been identified by OPWDD as important programs for individuals who are developing the skills to live more independently in the community.

The authority for these programs expired in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, these programs have been temporarily shuttered, however, it is expected that they will again be offered to OPWDD clients. This legislation will reconstitute these programs in law and extend their authority to ensure that they are available.

These programs are vital for OPWDD clients who want to live more independent lives. They help them develop skills that enable them to hold jobs, live on their own, and socialize with others. Failing to reauthorize these programs will take away a vital service to thousands of OPWDD clients.

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.

Respectively submitted,

Fran Turner
Director