



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

S.5495 – Jackson / A.6806 – Pheffer Amato

The CSEA strongly supports the passage of this legislation.

This bill amends section 165-a of the civil service law to ensure that un-remarried spouses and dependents have access to health insurance after the death of a former public sector employee.

The families of retired public sector employees often rely on employer sponsored insurance coverage. Under current law, the New York State Health Insurance Plan (NYSHIP) allows a public employee and their dependents who retire due to an on-the-job injury to retain their insurance coverage. However, where a retired public sector employee dies with less than 10 years of service, their families are left without access to this critical insurance, which often leads to financial and emotional hardship.

Allowing un-remarried spouses and dependents to maintain their NYSHIP coverage after the death of the retired employee, without regard to the number of years that the employee had worked, will ensure that they can maintain access to essential healthcare services and avoid the added burden of navigating the complexities of obtaining new insurance coverage during a time of grief and loss. By passing this legislation, the State can demonstrate its commitment to supporting the families of former public sector employees and honoring the service of these individuals, even if their service tenure falls below the 10-year mark.

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