



August 19, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: NYSPHA recommends you sign A7357 to establish a pilot program to create an assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs.

Dear Governor Hochul,

The New York State Public Health Association (NYSPHA) is pleased to provide our recommendation that you immediately sign this bill that will establish a pilot program to create an assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs. NYSPHA is the New York affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and serves as the statewide organization for members from all disciplines across the spectrum of public health professionals, organizations, academia, and students pursuing careers in public health. Our mission is to improve the public's health through advocacy, education, networking, and professional development.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs face disadvantages in various areas of life, a few among them are obtaining healthcare, making housing decisions, assuming family roles, obtaining competitive employment, and even enjoying leisure activities. As a leader in the country, New York State has made various strides in these areas to provide vital services to this population. In continuing to seek equitable services from New York State, a pilot hotline with trained individuals should be available as a point of contact for these individuals to connect them with appropriate services.

NYSPHA's Recommendation: NYSPHA recommends you sign A7357 to establish a pilot program to create an assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Guthrie Birkhead MD'.

Guthrie Birkhead, MD, MPH
Chair, Policy and Advocacy Committee
advocacy@nyspha.org

*CC: Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor*