

A.3563 (Lavine)
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) supports A. 3563 which would enable testing technicians to administer and score standardized psychological tests.

The Brain Injury Association of New York State is the premier state-wide organization advocating on behalf of the thousands of individuals with brain injury and their families and promoting prevention. Through our information and resource clearinghouse, family support program, extensive public education and professional training programs, supports for our wounded warriors one in five of whom sustains a TBI, and extensive network of chapters and support groups, BIANYS is uniquely positioned to provide input and insight into the needs of this population.

On a daily basis, we support individuals whose lives have been permanently altered by a brain injury. Significant among the effects of the injury are the resulting cognitive challenges that may profoundly impact on individual's ability to reintegrate into his/her family, community, employment or school. A neuropsychological evaluation is a critical piece of the puzzle that becomes recovery. Yet, we hear repeatedly about long waiting time to have a neuropsychological evaluation, high cost of the evaluation, and the unavailability of neuropsychologists in many areas of the state. These factors seriously diminish the access to this critical service, and undermine or limit the ability of injured individuals to move forward.

BIANYS strongly supports steps that would enhance access to neuropsychological evaluations. Timely evaluations would ensure that individuals with brain injury and their families become aware of the cognitive challenges and the formulation of appropriate interventions that support recovery. BIANYS further recommends strongly that key training for psychometricians and more importantly, on site supervision by the psychologist during testing be included as components of the law. In this way, accurate administration and evaluation can be assured.