

MEMO IN SUPPORT

S.6111/A.8530

The Brain Injury Association of New York State supports S. 6111/A. 8530, an act to amend the public health law in relation to extending the number of days within a twelve month period a facility may receive reimbursement for a reserved bed, and urges the legislature to pass this bill.

Successful rehabilitation and transition to home for many individuals in residential health care facilities requires access to home visits on a regular basis. Often, distance from home or the fragility of the individual may impact the length of a particular home visit. Yet, there is no substitute for the constant and regular interaction with friends and family are critical to recovery and to returning home. This is the goal of rehabilitation, and an important public policy. The current period of 10 days has a detrimental impact on this important step in the recovery process. It may mean that an individual may only be able to return home infrequently, and add additional stress to the family that is working to ease the transition. Indeed, having insufficient time for home visits may undermine the individual's progress. The proposal provides for a more reasonable number of days, thereby allowing the individual and family to work together towards accomplishing the return home, while removing the worry about having a bed in the residential facility if the visits go longer than the current 10 days. This proposal supports the efforts of individuals to return to their home communities.