



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**
Strength Together

December 9, 2019

Kumiki Gibson
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber - NYS Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

RE: S.1674 and (M. of S. Skoufis) An act to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the office of the advocate for people with disabilities

Dear Ms. Gibson,

On behalf of the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (New York Alliance), we're pleased to inform you of our support of legislation to establish a state level office that will assure people with disabilities are afforded the opportunity to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities afforded all New Yorkers. The bill, S.1674 (M. of S. Skoufis) will be before the Governor for Executive action and we urge approval of this important measure.

The New York Alliance is a statewide membership association representing nearly 175 providers of services to people with disabilities. The New York Alliance envisions a society where people with disabilities are contributing citizens with equal rights and the ability to live full, productive and meaningful lives. The association serves as a catalyst for positive change and leading resource for individuals with disabilities, their families, and the organizations supporting them.

The legislation re-establishes the Office of the Advocate for People with Disabilities. The Office will serve as a voice for the rights of people with disabilities and serve as the State's coordinator for the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We firmly believe that such an Office is important and necessary to ensure that New York's public policies effecting people with disabilities address accessibility, integration, and person-centeredness.

On behalf of our association, we're grateful to Senator Skoufis and Assemblyman Steck for introducing S.1674 and A.4737.

We respectfully request the Governor's support of the measure and urge enacting the bill into law.

Sincerely,

Michael Seereiter
President/Chief Executive Officer



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