



NEW YORK  
**ALLIANCE FOR  
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**

Strength Together

August 17, 2018

Alphonso David  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

RE: A.7976 (M. of A. De La Rosa) legislation to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to directing the autism spectrum disorders advisory board to identify strategies and methods to improve outreach to minority groups

Dear Mr. David,

On behalf of the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation, we take this opportunity to inform you of our support of legislation to promote necessary supports and services to potentially underserved populations of people in the state with autism. A.7976 passed both houses of the State Legislature and is now before the Governor for Executive action.

The New York Alliance is a statewide association representing 175 not-for-profit provider agencies serving 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 is the result of a successful partnership and merger of two associations: the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies and the New York State Rehabilitation Association.

A.7976 highlights a very important issue for the disabilities community in that certain individuals are underserved and children with autism are underdiagnosed. If the legislation is enacted, the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board would identify strategies and methods to improve outreach and coordination of services associated with autism spectrum disorders for minority group members.

The New York Alliance believes the bill is important to address the issue of underserved populations and to highlight an important conversation. Additionally, the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board is the proper vehicle to thoroughly review and research the issue and advance a series of recommendations to improve outreach and promote the important supports and services.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Governor to sign this important measure into law.



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Sincerely,

Ann Hardiman  
President & CEO

Cc: Honorable Carmen De La Rosa, Member of NYS Assembly  
Honorable Jesse Hamilton, Member of NYS Senate  
Honorable Aileen Gunther, Chair, NYS Assembly Mental Health & Developmental  
Disabilities Committee  
Honorable Robert Ortt, Chair, NYS Senate Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities  
Committee