



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**

Memorandum in Support **S.6300 (Mannion)**

An act to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a public awareness program to combat the stigma and stereotyping of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (NY Alliance) supports legislation to establish a public awareness program that combats the unjust and prejudicial discrimination, disgraceful stigma and unnecessary stereotyping of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that still exists in the State of New York.

The NY Alliance is a statewide association representing nearly 175 not-for-profit provider agencies serving people with disabilities. The NY Alliance envisions a society where people with disabilities are contributing citizens with equal rights and the ability to live full, productive and meaningful lives.

This important piece of legislation would require the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities to create a very well-intended public awareness initiative aimed at reducing stigma and stereotypes of people with I/DD. Such initiative would include educational programming on I/DD and offer resources that highlight the significant contributions and accomplishments of New Yorkers with disabilities.

In an era where unjustified distinctions between people based on race, gender, ethnicity, age, groups or classes remains widespread, it's crucial for society to promote and advance all efforts to end discrimination. The NY Alliance strongly believes we do this through promotional activities that raise awareness, understanding and recognition of disability as a human rights issue, provide educational opportunities to all New Yorkers on addressing and eliminating discrimination and stigma, and mobilize support for anti-discrimination measures including policies, programs and legislation such as S.6300.

The NY Alliance strongly supports S.6300.

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