



*Achieve with us.®*

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June 30, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Support for S.7578-C (Mannion)/A.8549-C (Burdick)

The Arc New York is a family-led organization that advocates and provides supports and services to people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities (I/DD), emphasizing choice and community engagement. With 36 Chapters across New York state, our organization supports more than 60,000 individuals and families and employs more than 30,000 people statewide.

We support S.7578-C (Mannion)/A.8549-C (Burdick), which updates New York's Preferred Source program (PSP). The current statute that governs the PSP was enacted over four decades ago with only minor statutory changes since. The provisions set forth modernize the governing statute and correct antiquated terminology and outdated language. The legislation also codifies certain practices relevant to the program for ease of use and transparency. The PSP is an important component for the integrated employment for people with I/DD. This legislation secures its viability into the future.

New York's PSP was established to create and sustain employment opportunities for New Yorkers with disabilities by directing state and local government agencies to purchase approved products and services. The NYS Office of General Services oversees the Preferred Sources List of products and services that are offered and/or produced by affiliated not-for-profit agencies. Many Arc New York Chapters participate in the program and provide employment for people with I/DD.

The opportunity to work is an important aspect of developing personal and social identities along with societal bonding. It promotes a sense of self-worth for all individuals and provides a way to contribute to society.

New York's PSP is a significant contributor to ensuring that people with I/DD have opportunities to obtain and maintain jobs and thereby fostering a person's sense of community and belonging, self-esteem, confidence, general health, and wellness.

The Arc New York strongly supports S.7578-C and A.8549-C and asks you to sign this important measure into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik C. Geizer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Geizer  
Chief Executive Officer