



## *Health, Mental Health, & Human Services*

The Assembly Republican Conference's plan for supporting those who are most in need

### **Expand Access to Health Care**

- Provide more access to health care for New Yorkers:
  - Provide tuition assistance to individuals who are looking to become a nurse and commit to working in New York for the same length of time as the degree or program takes to complete (**A.3586, Palmesano**).
  - Expand the Regents Physician Loan Forgiveness Program to include medical malpractice insurance rate relief to eligible physicians who practice in designated physician shortage areas (**A.3698, Palmesano**).

### **Help New Yorkers Rise out of Poverty**

- A new approach for tackling New York's poverty crisis:
  - Allow individuals to collect unemployment working part time by reducing the amount of the unemployment benefit by 50 percent of the part-time earnings (**A.5426, Goodell**).
  - Allow appeals to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to be conducted by telephone or videoconference (**A.5463, Goodell**).
  - Allow local social services districts to immediately contact a welfare recipient who fails to comply with job training or work experience requirements to resolve any good faith issues needed to re-engage the recipient in job training or work experience with minimum delay (**A.5573, Goodell**).
  - Require the Division of Criminal Justice Services to check the wanted felon status of people applying for public assistance (**A.5067, Barclay**).

### **Protect the Most Vulnerable**

- A new plan for protecting the rights of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities:
  - Require that the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs submit two annual reports, mandate weekly website updates, and require the Justice Center to connect callers with 911 in the event of an immediate emergency (**A.4085, Kolb**).
  - Create a Bill of Rights for the Developmentally Disabled that would include provisions such as:
    - The right to be treated with respect,
    - The right to have an appropriate and safe living environment, and
    - The right to make decisions for their lives, including housing choices and work environments (**A.2403, Crouch**).
  - Require OPWDD and the DOL to conduct a comprehensive study on wages of direct-care

workers and publicize the report (**A.1383, Crouch**).

- Create a service learning/internship program for students enrolled at a State university or community college to receive academic credit while spending time at sheltered workshops among individuals with developmental disabilities (**A.5901, Malliotakis**).
- Require OPWDD to establish family support navigators to help families and individuals to navigate the various worlds of insurance, transportation, and health care. Also, post available housing for the developmentally disabled on its website so it is clear where housing is available and where there is the greatest need for housing (**To Be Introduced, Miller, M.**).
- Require the Commissioner of Education to set tuition rates for Special Act Public School Districts and 853 schools based on the same annual percentage rate increase provided for general support for public schools (**A.4130, Ra**).
- Require OPWDD and DOT to conduct a study on:
  - The availability of transportation for the developmentally disabled,
  - The decision making authority for non-emergency Medicaid transportation, and
  - Any unique concerns based on regional issues (**A.4106, Palmesano**).