



COPA Legislative Briefing Call | May 13, 2019

Last day of session is Wednesday, June 19, approximately six weeks away

NYS Legislature

- Senate introduced about 5,600 bills this year, about 1,000 of which are new
- Assembly introduced 7,500+
- The Senate unlimited bill introduction ends May 16.
A small fraction of the bills are passed by *both* houses

Supported State Bills

- S.5192 (Mayer) / A.7120 (Benedetto) – authorizes SED to add the growth factor to the interim rates for all 4410, 853 and Special Act schools while they wait for SED to update their rates. Now in Senate Finance Committee, not yet on Assembly Education Committee Agenda.
- S.5629 (Mayer) / (Benedetto) - authorizes 4410 schools to contract with BOCES online recruitment tool such as OLAS (Online Application System). Waiting for introduction in the Assembly.
- A.7473 (Gunther) ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Accounts, which are similar to college savings accounts, but for individuals with disabilities; supporting an increase from \$1,000 to \$15,000.
- S.5347 (Carlucci) / A.6344-A (Gunther) Requires OPWDD to post eligibility information on their website.
- S.1818 (Rivera) / A.2786 (Gottfried) Allows providers who upgrade or implement new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems more than the current 90 days to rebill for services provided once they realize that there was a billing/claiming error.
- S.5633 (Carlucci) / A.7263 (Gunther) Authorizes medical marijuana use, in accordance with State laws, without any interference or investigation/charges from the Justice Center. Families are asking for it as it is highly effective with treating seizures. In Assembly Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Committee Agenda this week.

Opposed State Bills

- S.5121 (Carlucci) / A.1370-A (Abinanti) Instructions to call 911 and the Justice Center would be posted in a public place at all sites, which is both stigmatizing and unnecessary.
- S.4015 (Carlucci) / A.3529 (Gunther) Requires cameras at all State operated facilities' entrances and exits but the language includes non-state operated as well. We oppose the requirement but support the ability to install them for just cause.
- A.7077 (Steck) Eliminates ability to pay people with developmental disabilities sub-minimum wage. Some supported employment programs still utilize sub-minimum wage to allow people to earn some money while learning skills; unpopular federally. Would go into effect December 31.

#OurKidsAreYOURKids

Education Campaign activities: Legislator visits to schools and Legislative District Offices to make special education more visible. We encourage everyone to continue to meet with your Regents and Legislators.

COPA drafted sign-on letters for the Education Committee chairs to send to the Governor/DOB in support of the SED methodology request to DOB – 3.6% for 4410 and 853; 6% for 4410 special class integrated settings; and \$4 million in additional teacher recruitment and retention funding.

Justice Center

The Justice Center was a major topic of the past few weeks at both the annual COPA HR conference and the annual CP of NYS/Arc NY Corporate Compliance Conference.

City and State published an article discussing many of our Justice Center concerns.

<https://cityandstateny.com/articles/policy/policy/is-the-justice-center-unfair-to-the-people-it-investigates.html>

The Senate MH/DD Committee hearing scheduled for May 22 has been cancelled and is to be rescheduled for sometime this summer.

Other items

- **Please send an email if** you are not currently on the COPA email list and you **want to be included on the COPA Call reminder list as well as the COPA issue area lists**, i.e. Education, Employment, clinic, day services, residential services etc. **Please note what issue area groups you would like to be included on for emails.**
- **COPA will be changing our name to New York Disability Advocates (NYDA).** Logo, website and other association-related materials will change over the course of the next several weeks.
- **Don't forget** about DANY (Disability Advocates NY) PAC allows us to be heard politically - attend receptions and meet with legislators.

Upcoming:

- Next COPA Legislative Briefing Call 5-20-19 at 11:00am.
- Rescheduling the May 27 meeting.