

HCA MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT



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HCA, New York State's premier home care association, represents more than 400 providers, individuals and associate members who collectively serve thousands of New Yorkers.

Home care encompasses a broad spectrum of services delivered at home to patients who are disabled, chronically ill, recovering from an illness, or have other health-related needs that can be met in the home setting.

*"Helping New Yorkers **Feel Right** at Home"*

TO: Members of the New York State Legislature

RE: A.10137 (Canestrari) and S.7121 (Stavisky)

Extends the authorization of physical therapy assistants to provide services in home care settings until June 30, 2014

Date: June 2, 2010

The Home Care Association of New York State, Inc. (HCA) is pleased to strongly support the above referenced legislation, A.10137 by Assemblyman Canestrari and S.7121 by Senator Stavisky, to extend the authorization of physical therapy assistants (PTAs) to provide services in home care settings until June 30, 2014.

Since 1993, PTAs have been allowed to provide services at home when the supervising physical therapist establishes a program of care for a patient and determines the patient is appropriate to receive PTA services, has an initial joint visit with the patient and the PTA, periodically evaluates and treats such patient, and provides a final evaluation to determine if the treatment plan should be terminated.

For many years, home health agencies have faced critical shortages of staff, including physical therapists. Utilizing PTAs has allowed home health agencies to provide physical therapy in a safe, high quality and cost-effective manner. While PTAs are not allowed to develop the treatment plan or provide patient evaluations, they help ensure the implementation of treatment and strengthen patient/family education that is important for rehabilitation services at home.

Our member agencies utilize PTAs to provide over 20,000 visits each year which allow individuals to improve at home rather than in a hospital or nursing home. Such efforts are consistent with New York State's efforts to rebalance the long-term care system from institutional to home and community-based and to allow individuals to live in the most preferred and integrated setting.

HCA greatly appreciates the sponsorship and leadership of Assemblyman Canestrari and Senator Stavisky, and urges the members of the Senate and Assembly to strongly support this important bill.