



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2007

Re: A.9263 (Morelle)/S. 6324 (Seward)

An act to amend the insurance law, in relation to certain coverage for mental illness.

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This measure, A.9263/S.6324, is a technical “clean-up” of the mental health parity bill passed late last year. It represents agreement by all interested parties and is endorsed by the Department of Insurance. The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) supports this technical amendment, because it clarifies the intent and eliminates certain ambiguities contained in the original law.

The enactment of the original mental health parity law left plans with barely a week to implement the terms of this complicated benefit change. Since that time, plans have worked with the Department to meet the requirements of the law, even though certain provisions of the bill were ambiguous or contrary to what was understood to be the legislative intent. A.9263/S.6324 will remove the vagueness in the current law and allow for a smoother implementation process to the benefit of all involved. If it is not enacted immediately, health plans will be forced to administer the law as drafted, which almost certainly will result in less coverage for consumers because of the ambiguity in the original law. In order to avoid disruption to this benefit, HPA urges the Legislature to immediately pass this legislation.

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 30 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to nearly 6 million New Yorkers.

MEMO IN SUPPORT