

VETO MESSAGE - No. 187

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 2847, entitled:

"AN ACT to establish an interagency council for the purpose of coordinated planning on issues related to older adults"

NOT APPROVED

This bill would establish an interagency council of representatives from 11 executive agencies to develop a statewide plan to address the current and future needs of older adults. Under the direction of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), the Council would be required to assess current programs and services across multiple agencies. It would then have to complete a prospective 5-year report to ensure the future needs of older adults are being addressed.

This bill is identical to a bill I vetoed last year, and as such, it suffers from the same flaws. (Veto No. 237 of 2016). Not only is the bill duplicative of federal requirements for which NYSOFA is fully compliant, but it also fails to provide a funding source to ensure the bill would be implemented effectively.

First, the Federal Older Americans Act requires all states to develop a comprehensive 5-year plan that describes how services will be organized and delivered. NYSOFA is fully compliant, as it submitted and posted its most recent 5-year plan in 2015. Notably, while NYSOFA is charged with the development of this plan, it sought broad community input from the Area Agencies on Aging, consumers, service providers, and educators.

Second, requiring NYSOFA to coordinate a new interagency council would put an unnecessary and unbudgeted strain on State resources. Substantial funds are already allocated to produce the 5-year statewide report, as well as for NYSOFA to chair or participate in several established interagency councils. For example, NYSOFA already:

Chairs an interagency task force that includes the Department of Health (DOH), the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the Office of Mental Health (OMH), and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to design and implement a No Wrong Door approach to accessing long term services.

Co-Chairs the State's Geriatric Mental Health and Chemical Dependence Interagency Task Force that coordinates behavioral health and social supports.

Actively participates in the State's Alzheimer's Disease Coordinating Council, which has produced significant improvements in services, as well as \$25 million in funding to expand respite and other supports to caregivers of individuals with dementia.

Actively participates in the State's Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) which is charged with implementing the State's Olmstead Plan, and the Governor's Anti-Poverty and homelessness reduction initiatives.

In sum, producing a second duplicative report, as well as managing another interagency council, will require additional sources of funding that have yet to be identified. For these reasons, I am constrained to veto this bill.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO
