Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of the State of New York

New York State Capitol Building

Albany, NY 12224

June 18, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write today on behalf of tens of thousands of New Yorkers who currently receive mental health and substance use disorder / addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services through New York’s public mental hygiene system, as well as those who need care but have not yet been able to access it.

We wish to express our support for **A.7405A (Bronson)/S.6431 (Brouk).** This legislation provides a one-year extender of the current workforce exemption and in so doing provides more time to resolve remaining issues related to NYS Licensing Laws.

As you know, New York’s community-based mental health and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery organizations are facing monumental workforce shortages in agencies whose only mission is to provide life-saving care to children and youth, individuals and families who need our assistance. Demand for care continues to increase. As a result, many agencies have long waiting lists of individuals experiencing delays in accessing care. The one-year extender will ensure continued access to and continuity of care at current levels.

**We respectfully request that you sign A.7405A (Bronson)/S.6431 (Brouk) without delay in order to ensure we can continue our efforts to serve New Yorkers in need.**

The undersigned organizations thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

NYS Coalition for Children’s Behavioral Health

NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

The Coalition for Behavioral Health

Alcoholism and Substance Use Providers of New York State

Cc: Beth Garvey, Counsel to the Governor

 Dana Carotenuto, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy

 Dan Fuller, Deputy Secretary for Education

 Chris Tavella, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Health

 Chatodd Floyd, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy

 Khemenec Pantin, Senior Policy Advisor

 Emily Badalamente, Senior Policy Advisor