



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Rachel May

## Senator May Passes Legislation Calling for Reimagining Long-Term Care Task Force

RACHEL MAY July 23, 2020

| ISSUE: **LONG-TERM CARE**

| COMMITTEE: **AGING**



**Albany, NY** -- Senator Rachel May (D-Onondaga, Madison, Oneida) has passed a bill to create a task force to examine some of the issues that made nursing homes and other elder care systems so vulnerable to the pandemic and to develop strategies to prevent future such problems. The State Senate passed this legislation ([S8633B/A10836](#)) Wednesday evening.

The Reimagining Long-Term Care Task Force would examine the state of long-term care — home- and facility-based — and limitations that currently hamper quality care. It would look at both pandemic-specific issues as well as long-standing problems that made elder care systems so vulnerable to outbreaks during the crisis. It also would consider potential models for improvement and make recommendations for corrective measures.

“This devastating pandemic is a wake-up call for us to finally address systemic challenges that have plagued our elder care systems for too long,” says **Senator May, who chairs the Senate Committee on Aging**. “Staff shortages, caregivers forced to work multiple jobs to make a living wage, lax infection controls, chronic funding issues -- these and other issues exacerbated the vulnerability of older New Yorkers to this deadly virus, especially those living in nursing homes. We have a critical opportunity here, and a responsibility, to take a hard look at the whole system of long-term care and reimagine it in a way that truly prioritizes the needs of older New Yorkers and those who care for them.”

“AARP New York has been calling for a long-term care task force for months to figure out how to prevent a repeat of the tragedy that has befallen the system during this pandemic,” said **Beth Finkel, AARP New York State Director**. “We applaud Senator May for her legislation to create one. We are especially pleased that the task force will study not only facility-based care but also home-based care, a growing industry, and that it will bring together organizations representing consumers and family caregivers, workers and providers. Over 6,300 New Yorkers have died in nursing homes during this pandemic, a disproportionate number of them New Yorkers of color, and many of them alone. We simply cannot let that happen again, and this bill is a good start to ensure we don’t.”

The task force would include representatives from across the spectrum of care, including community-based services, home care, independent and assisted living, and skilled nursing care. Members would include care workers, industry and state agency professionals,

advocates, and those with expertise in a wide range of relevant areas, including elder law, senior housing, and racial disparities in long-term care.

The task force would report on its findings related to the pandemic by December of this year, and follow that with a full report, including recommendations for further action and legislation, by May 2021.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2019-S8633B**

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- Introduced
  
- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
- ◦ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
  
- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Enacts the "reimagining long-term care task force" to create a task force to study the state of long-term care services in this state

June 26, 2020

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Rachel May**

Do you support this bill?