MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A.7356-C WOERNER /S.6300-C MANNION- AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a public awareness campaign to combat the stigma and stereotyping of individuals with developmental disabilities

July 5, 2022: The Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) supports A.7356-C/S.6300-C sponsored by Assembly Member Woerner and Senator Mannion which would require the Commissioners of OPWDD and OMH to develop and implement a public awareness campaign that combats the discrimination, stigma and stereotyping of individuals with developmental disabilities across the state.

COFCCA members provide services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities a variety of settings in the child welfare, OPWDD, and education systems. These programs fully understand the contributions and capabilities of this populations and are all too familiar with the stigma and discrimination they are facing.

This public awareness campaign, designed to educate the general public about this population and highlight their contributions will combat stereotypes that undermine dignity and respect that this population deserves.

COFCCA supports A.7356-C/S.6300-C and encourages the Governor to sign the bill.

For more information please contact Michelle Newman, at mnewman@cofcca.org or (212) 929-2626.