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June 2, 2019

Hon. Andrew Joyce, Chairman  
Legislative Clerk's Office  
112 State St., Room 710  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

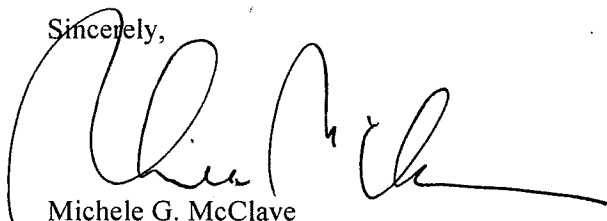
The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

Authorization is requested to renew an agreement with Hope House for OASAS-licensed residential services to women with minor children. The facility is a sole source provider in Albany County and fills a critical gap in the continuum of services available to women in Albany County who are experiencing drug/alcohol issues. Without this facility, women with minor children in need of residential treatment services are forced to temporarily discontinue care of their children or enter a program in another area of the state.

Access to this facility allows women to secure appropriate treatment services without disrupting their parenting roles with their children, and in many cases avoiding foster care placement. In addition, some children who are in the custody of the Department for Children, Youth & Families, as the result of a child abuse/neglect proceeding, may be able to be returned to their mothers at an earlier date than would otherwise be possible.

The facility has at any given "point in time" capacity for 21 adults and 12 children, with occupancy to average 24 individuals. The continuum of services provided by the facility includes, but is not limited to, room and board, routine medical services, parenting education and modeling, coordination with alcohol/substance abuse treatment and other services, assessment of special needs, appropriate recreational opportunities for children and families and other related services.

Sincerely,



Michele G. McClave  
Commissioner

cc: Dennis Feeny, Majority Leader  
Frank Mauriello Minority Leader  
Kevin Cannizzaro, Majority Counsel  
Minority Counsel