

# New York State Coalition for Adult Home Reform

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**Memorandum in Support**  
**A.7069 (Brennan/Gottfried, et. al)**  
April 2007

*AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing a fee schedule for the use, maintenance and repair of air conditioners in adult homes.*

According to the U.S. Centers on Disease Control, air conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death. Those most at risk for heat-related illnesses include the elderly, people with mental illness and people with chronic diseases. Virtually all adult home residents fall into at least one of these categories.

Every year, some people who live in adult homes die or become sick during hot summer weather. A survey of 25 adult homes in New York City revealed that 36% of the homes charge residents additional fees for air conditioners and 24% charge each resident more than \$50/month for air conditioning. Two homes charge over \$100/resident/month. Most of the people living in these homes receive their income through the Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) program. These charges are unaffordable for people who receive SSI. The personal needs allowance (PNA) is currently \$164/month.

A.7069 directs the Department of Health to establish a schedule of reasonable fees for the use of air conditioners. This legislation will save lives, improve health and reduce costs from hospitalizations for heat related illnesses. Members of the New York State Coalition on Adult Home Reform urge passage of this legislation.