



## New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, Council 82

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

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On December 5, 2024, Governor Hochul signed Senate Bill 6635 / Assembly Bill 5745 into law. This legislation amends the workers' compensation law by broadening the class of employees covered by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to now apply to *all workers* in New York State.

This expansion of coverage ensures that work-related PTSD is properly treated and that everyone can access necessary care. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder resulting from severe physical or mental trauma. According to the National Center for PTSD, about 5% of adults in the U.S. experience PTSD in any given year. This acknowledgement that mental health care is a critical part of overall health care is a huge step forward for all New Yorkers.

As you know, Council 82 represents police officers, deputy sheriffs, correction officers, 911 dispatchers, and other public safety personnel throughout the State of New York. Our members provide safety and security to their communities while routinely managing high-pressure situations. This legislation expands the workers' compensation PTSD benefit to our members, guaranteeing that these workers can access treatment for work-related PTSD if they need it.

Earlier this year, Council 82 held a lobby day at the State Capitol to meet with members of the State Senate and the State Assembly to push for the passage of this legislation. We thank Senator Jessica Ramos and Assemblymember Karines Reyes for sponsoring SB 6635/AB 5745. We also thank Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this important bill into law.

Ron Walsh  
President, Council 82