

Governor Kathy Hochul
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

We are a broad coalition of providers, consumers, labor, business, and civic organizations concerned about the cuts contained in HR1, which will have devastating impacts on New York's health care patients, providers, and payers.

We write to offer our support to your Administration as it grapples with a series of poor policy options in the wake of these devastating cuts. We are particularly concerned about the sustainability of New York's Essential Plan which provides quality affordable coverage for 1.7 million New Yorkers. The cuts in HR1 will result in a loss of \$7.5 billion in funding for the Essential Plan and loss of coverage for hundreds of thousands of its enrollees. We understand that one option before your Administration is to wind down the 1332 Waiver and return to operating a Section 1331 Basic Health Program, which has an income-eligibility cap of 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This option would enable New York to retain coverage for its lawfully present immigrants who are currently enrolled in the Essential Plan and offset much of the funding losses imposed by HR1.

Absent federal action to eliminate or delay the cuts to the Essential Plan, we believe that the return to the Basic Health Program is the best viable option for our State. We understand that this option will result in the termination of Essential Plan coverage for the 446,000 New Yorkers who have benefited from the 1332 Waiver's expansion to people with incomes between 200-250 percent of the federal poverty level.

We believe it is also critical to develop mitigation strategies to support access to health coverage for these former Essential Plan enrollees. **We stand ready to work with your Administration on these strategies, which could include state-funded cost sharing/deductible reductions, a premium assistance program, or other affordability options.**

Thank you again for your leadership during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York
Cerebral Palsy Association
Citizen Action of NY
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Civil Service Employees Association Local 1000, AFSCME

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

Coalition of New York State Public Health Plans

Communications Workers of America, District 1

Community Health Care Association of New York State

Community Service Society of NY

Inter Agency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.

Make the Road New York

Medicaid Matters New York

Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY)

Medicare Rights Center

Metro New York Health Care for All

New York Association on Independent Living

New York State Nurses Association

NY Health Plan Association

NYS AFL-CIO

Small Business Majority

South Asian Council for Social Services

United Way of New York State & 211 New York