

Via Electronic Mail

Governor Kathy Hochul (Governor.Hochul@exec.ny.gov)

April 1, 2022

Major Hospitals, Healthcare Networks, Clinics, and Medical Providers Urge Expansion of Health Coverage to New Yorkers Regardless of Immigration Status

Dear Governor Kathy Hochul:

We write to you today as healthcare providers in support of Coverage For All (A.880A/S.1572A), which would allocate \$345M in the FY23 state budget to create a state funded Essential Plan for low-income individuals currently ineligible for insurance due to their immigration status. Our hospitals, health centers, behavioral health organizations, clinics and provider offices collectively provide care to countless immigrants across New York State. We support this legislation because we know that access to care is always crucial but has never been more important than the current moment when we continue to battle against Covid-19.

Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the number of New Yorkers who are uninsured has reduced from 3 million to 1 million individuals. But we must continue to work hard to insure all New Yorkers and guarantee access to care. Undocumented immigrants represent around one-third of the 1 million still uninsured. Allowing these New Yorkers to access health coverage will enable them and their families to seek the critical care they need. **Coverage For All simply is good public health policy.**

Uninsured immigrants often avoid necessary medical care for fear of the costs. As a result, many experience prolonged illness and suffering and many wind up in emergency rooms for conditions that could have been prevented. We see every day the health disparities that exist for immigrants due to lack of health insurance, and these disparities were exacerbated during the pandemic.

Expanding coverage to low-income immigrants regardless of their immigration status will also help all New Yorkers be able to live and thrive in our great state. As we saw during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, immigrants, those with and without status, died at a higher rate than other marginalized and vulnerable communities. Our doctors and nurses witnessed these tragedies firsthand. Therefore, we firmly believe that New York State must do the right thing and insure the undocumented.

For these reasons, we support A.880A/S.1572A, and urge you to include Coverage for All in the NYS FY23 Budget by allocating \$345 million to this critical effort. This is of monumental importance and we need your leadership.

Sincerely,

Community Health Care Association of New York State

New York City Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health

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Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Larry McReynolds, Executive Director

Community Healthcare Network

Physicians for a National Health Program - New York Metro Chapter

New York Doctors Coalition

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Southern Tier Community Health Center Network d/b/a Universal Primary Care

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Damian Family Care Centers, Inc.

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Anne Kauffman Nolon, MPH, Chief Executive Officer

Urban Health Plan, Inc.

Paloma Hernandez, President and Chief Executive Officer

Hudson Headwaters Health Network

Family Health Network of Central New York, Inc.

Kim Osborne, CEO

Medical Providers Network (MPN)- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

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Health+ Hospitals/ Elmhurst Hospital

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Richmond University Medical Center

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Finger Lakes Community Health

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LaVonne Ansari, CEO

Community Health Initiatives, Inc.

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SNAPCAP

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Daniel Pichinson, Executive Director

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La Casa de Salud

Lauren Mendenhall, Executive Director

Metro Community Health Center

Neighborhood Health Center WNY

Upstate Family Health Center, Inc.

Long Island FQHC, Inc.

David Nemiroff, President/CEO

Syracuse Community Health Center

Mark Hall, President & CEO

BMS Health and Wellness Centers

Harvey Lawrence, President & CEO

Ryan Health

Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center Inc.

Judith Watson, CEO

Harlem United

Jacquelyn Kilmer, CEO

Apicha Community Health Center

Therese Rodriguez, CEO

North Country Family Health Center, Inc.

Joey Marie Horton, CEO

East Harlem Council for Human Services, Inc.

Art Perez, CEO

HealthCare Choices NY, Inc.

Maria Siebel, CEO

Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center

Patricia Fernand, President & CEO

Betances Health Center

Julia Tsien, CEO

Settlement Health and Medical Services, Inc.

Ana A. Trilla, Chief Executive Officer

Union Community Health Center

Doug York, President & CEO

The Chautauqua Center

Care For the Homeless

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