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Testimony for the Joint Legislative Public Hearing on the 2026 Executive Budget Proposal: Health/Medicaid

Chairs Krueger and Pretlow, and Members of the Legislature:

All* Above All believes in the core tenets of reproductive justice; that every person has (1) the right to have a child, (2) the right not to have a child, and (3) the right to parent that child in a safe and healthy environment. While New York has set the standard, in many respects, of what reproductive justice policies can look like, there is still much to be done to ensure that we are living up to these promises.

In the face of ongoing attacks on care from the Federal Government, the legislature must rise to the occasion to ensure that the budget includes the policies and funding required to deliver true reproductive justice to the people of New York state.

Funding Priorities

Reproductive Freedom and Equity Fund (RFEF): We encourage the legislature to increase funding for the RFEF to \$30 million, as opposed to the \$25 million proposed in the Executive Budget. Further, legislative language should be included in the Senate and Assembly one-house budgets to allow for the use of RFEF funds for practical support for abortion seekers, ie. travel, lodging, food assistance, childcare, or other basic needs (**S.135 Cleare / A.2137 Gonzalez-Rojas**). With the attacks from the federal government and anti-abortion states only increasing, this funding has been crucial for providers to continue providing care.

Making up for Meager Reimbursement Rates: Because Medicaid reimbursement rates in New York have been stagnant for a decade and are significantly below the cost of providing care, providers lose money every time they provide abortion care. While the Governor has proposed a \$20 million funding line to make up for these low

reimbursement rates for medication abortion and care later in pregnancy, we urge the legislature to, once again, increase this funding by an additional \$5 million. The current rates are simply not sustainable to maintain a robust care delivery ecosystem in New York.

Capital and Security Funding for Abortion Providers: The Governor's budget proposes a 30% reduction of the Abortion Provider Capital and Security Funding. We urge the legislature to restore this line back to last year's level of \$15 million. The proposed \$10 million for this funding is insufficient to meet the growing security threats and massive capital improvement needs that providers have throughout the state.

Safeguarding Against Federal Funding Cuts: The Trump regime has instituted widespread funding cuts for the whole of the healthcare sector, with an emphasis on punishing providers of abortion care and family planning organizations, like Planned Parenthood. It is anticipated that the federal government will seek to make its prohibition on Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood permanent, as well as impose a gag rule on talking about or referring patients for abortion care, which would prevent New York's participation in Title X. In response to these attacks, we urge the legislature to continue the \$35 million appropriation to ensure that Planned Parenthood is able to care for its Medicaid patients. Additionally, we encourage the legislature to continue the \$38.75 million investment in family planning, and add an additional \$15 million to ensure that New York's sexual and reproductive health infrastructure can continue in the absence of federal funding.

Delivering on the Promise of Universal Child Care: The Executive Budget proposes \$1.7 billion in new investments to expand access to child care while moving towards a system of universal child care statewide. The Executive Budget also includes a \$1.2 billion investment in the Child Care Assistance Program, \$60 million to support Community Care models in three communities, and \$500 million to achieve truly universal Pre-K statewide. We encourage the legislature to adopt these proposals and urge legislators to add compensation supplements for the child care workforce to ensure these workers are earning a living wage.

Funding for Gender-Affirming Care: We recommend that the legislature add an \$8 million investment in access to gender-affirming care to the state budget. The Legislature should also include legislative language to create a gender-affirming care access program (**S.7924 Gonzalez / A.8841 Gonzalez-Rojas**). The Trump regime has proposed two rules that would severely limit young people's access to

gender-affirming care, as well as cripple the broader gender-affirming care delivery ecosystem. This \$8 million funding would at least provide a safety net for the trans youth who stand to lose Medicaid coverage if the first of these rules goes into effect.

Article VII Legislation:

PPGG Part K: All* Above All is strongly opposed the Governor's proposal in PPGG Part K to create 25-foot speech-free, buffer zones around reproductive health facilities and places of worship in the state. This constitutionally-wrought provision poses an existential threat to existing clinic access laws, threatens to make protest nearly impossible in New York State, and would expand policing, surveillance, and selective enforcement against protesters and communities of color. While we strongly support a person's right to receive abortion care free from harassing conduct, this proposal risks tearing down the carefully constructed protections in place to keep patients and providers safe.

Hospital Transparency: In the closing hours of 2025, the Governor vetoed the Hospital Transparency Act (**S.3486 Hinchey / A.3862 Rozic**), which would have offered prospective patients the tools they need to determine whether the hospital in their area provides the care they seek prior to admission, and improved access to time-sensitive health care here in New York. The Governor cited related costs of implementation in her veto message, and therefore we urge the legislature to include the updated version of this legislation by Sen. Hinchey and AM Rozic in their one-house budgets.

Reproductive Health, Safety, and Dignity in Carceral Settings: We encourage the legislature to include in their one-house budgets legislation critical to improving health, safety, and dignity for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting people in New York's prisons, jails, and other custodial settings. Three bills (**S.4583a Salazar / A.4879a Kelles; S.2666a Salazar / A.1607a Rosenthal; and S.2667b Salazar / A.1670a Rosenthal**) work together to ensure that pregnant and postpartum people are no longer shackled or subjected to dangerous physical force; are provided with adequate prenatal care, nutrition, and supports; are entitled to breastfeed and breast pump; and are permitted to bond with their newborns during the critical postpartum period. Due to the associated costs related to implementation, it is advisable to advance these crucial policies through the budget process.

Federal Noncompliance and the RECOURSE Act: We are at an unprecedented moment where the federal government is operating outside the bounds of the law

and in defiance of numerous federal court decisions. This lawlessness puts critical funding for New Yorkers in serious jeopardy. To respond in kind, the legislature should include the RECOURSE Act (**S.6915 Ramos / A.8097 Lasher**) in their one-house budget proposals. This act would give the Comptroller the ability to withhold federal tax dollars from being transmitted to the federal government when the federal government is cutting back funds from New York State in defiance of Court orders. Reproductive Justice can not thrive in an environment where a lawless federal regime can cut its funding off at the knees with impunity.

We appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony to you all and are available to meet with any interested member for a follow up discussion on the points above.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mosher
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