

Metro New York Health Care for All

Community and Labor United for Health Care Justice

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Steering Committee:

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District Council 37, AFSCME

Lourdes Rodriguez-Acosta
1199SEIU United Healthcare
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Mark Hannay, Director

Testimony to the New York Legislature Concerning Governor Hochul's Budget Proposals for SFY 2027

We are a coalition of community groups and labor unions in the Downstate region that work together on shared issues of concern. Our core mission is to advance toward a public universal health care program at the state or national level, as best embodied in the Improved Medicare for All Act in Congress, and the New York Health Act.

We write in support of the budget testimony submitted by our colleagues in the following organizations and coalitions:

- Health Care for All New York
- Medicaid Matters New York
- New York Caring Majority Rising
- Invest in Our New York
- Fiscal Policy Institute

In addition to healthcare-specific policy recommendations offered by those groups listed above, we strongly believe that in order to move forward on most if not all of them, significant additional new revenue is needed. Everyday New Yorkers should not be called upon to provide such resources. Instead, New York needs to turn away from austerity politics and state taxing policies of much of the last four decades to require large corporations, special interests, and the very wealthy to “pay what they owe” and “pay their fair share of taxes” in order to meet the needs of everyday New Yorkers, including but not limited to health care.

There is NO WAY that New York can adequately respond to the several federal budget spending cuts coming down from the federal government under the #OneBigUglyBill (HR 1) –particularly with regard to health care funding—without such major tax reforms. We call on the State Legislature to provide the necessary leadership in this matter, since Gov. Hochul has not yet done so, and unfortunately seems unwilling to move in that direction.

Thank you for your attention to our above recommendations.