

**Testimony of Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts**  
**Submitted to Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Health and Medicaid**  
**February 10, 2026**

Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts (PPESA) values the opportunity to submit testimony on the proposed FY2027 Executive Budget. PPESA proudly represents the five Planned Parenthood affiliates who provide primary and preventive sexual and reproductive health care services to approximately 200,000 individuals each year.

In 2025, our nation faced an onslaught of unprecedented threats to our fundamental rights, health, safety, and dignity. From attempts to strip millions of affordable health coverage, to Executive Orders and regulatory proposals aimed at erasing transgender and non-binary people and restricting access to essential care, to actions that undermine our public health investments and protections—our freedoms and wellbeing were repeatedly put at risk. And as 2026 begins, every indication suggests that this dangerous roll-back will only accelerate. As policymakers in Washington and hostile states work to shape a future rooted in discrimination and exclusion, we must meet this moment with unwavering resolve—grounded in our shared values of freedom, equality, and dignity for all.

These escalating threats unfold against the backdrop of an already strained health care system. Decades of underinvestment in sexual and reproductive health care—coupled with skyrocketing costs, workforce shortages, and the sweeping impact of bans and restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming care are undermining access across the country and impacting protective states like New York.

This stark reality is not a crisis of a single year, but a defining challenge for the years ahead. New York must continue to lead the nation in defending and advancing reproductive freedom—by pursuing bold, forward-looking policies that protect and expand access, and by making meaningful, sustained financial investments in the sexual and reproductive health care delivery system. Only then can we ensure that high quality, compassionate care is truly accessible to every person who seeks it.

It is through that framework that we urge the Legislature and Executive to center the following investments in the FY27 enacted budget:

- **Support \$35M in Funding to Backfill Planned Parenthood’s Medicaid Defund.** In July of 2025, language was enacted in the federal reconciliation bill H.R. 1 that prohibits New York Planned Parenthoods from receiving federal Medicaid funding. This action threatens access to care not only for those on Medicaid, but for all patients that rely on Planned Parenthood for essential care. Safety-net providers like Planned Parenthood have long been struggling to sustain services over decades of underinvestment and rising costs of delivering care. Without state support, this federal defund is unsustainable - health centers will close, and access will be irrevocably altered. **In recognition of this, the [Governor committed to backfilling this loss in October, and included this funding in her Executive Budget.](#)** Congress will have another opportunity to pass a defund measure this year. If

that occurs, the state must ensure this funding remains available beyond this appropriation.

- **Increase Funding for the Reproductive Freedom and Equity Program to \$30M.** In 2022, Governor Hochul made a historic commitment to protecting reproductive freedom by creating new funding streams for abortion access, including a landmark \$25 million in grant funding for abortion care. While these funds were designed to expand services, many providers relied on them simply to preserve existing access points that had been strained by decades of chronic underinvestment in this essential health care.

Today, the need is even greater. Costs of care continue to rise, demand for services has grown, and the threats emerging from the Trump Administration raise profound concerns for the stability of abortion access nationwide. The providers supported through this program will require additional resources to meet these escalating challenges and ensure that every person seeking care can receive it.

Yet despite mounting pressures, this program has been level-funded at \$25 million for the past four years. To sustain and strengthen New York's role as a national leader in abortion access, we respectfully request an increase of \$5 million, bringing the total program funding to \$30 million.

We also urge the Legislature to maintain its \$1M allocation to the New York Abortion Access Fund (NYAAF). In 2025 alone, NYAAF supported more than 3,290 individuals seeking assistance with abortion care—64% of whom were New Yorkers—and provided over \$2.2 million in direct support. Their work is indispensable in turning the legal right to abortion in New York into a lived reality for those who need it most.

- **Ensure \$25M in Grant Funding to Support the Provision of Medication Abortion and Care Later in Pregnancy.** The FY26 budget invested a total of \$25M in new grant funding to support the provision of medication abortion and care later in pregnancy. This investment was intended to address the unsustainable gap providers experience between Medicaid reimbursement and costs associated with providing this essential care. Providers lose hundreds to thousands of dollars every time they deliver this care to a patient on Medicaid, or in receipt of uncompensated care. Such a significant under-investment in both services directly impacts access and the ability of providers to sustainably offer this critical care. Despite this funding being included in the FY26 budget, it has yet to reach providers, exacerbating their existing fiscal challenges. The Executive Budget proposes \$20M in funding for FY27, along with new appropriation language we believe will facilitate this funding getting into the hands of providers more expeditiously. We urge the Legislature to adopt the new appropriation language and increase the funding to \$25M in the enacted budget.
- **Maintain Funding for the Reproductive Health Care Improvement Program (\$10M).** Since the *Dobbs* decision, the Governor has included \$10M in funding annually to address the security needs of abortion providers. The FY26 enacted budget transitioned this funding into a broader capital program, the Reproductive Health Care Improvement Program. This reimagined funding stream is

vital for providers to address the unique needs of their individual health centers – supporting not only security upgrades, but necessary health center renovations that improve access to care and facilitate debt retirement. Unfortunately, this funding has yet to be awarded. The FY27 Executive Budget sustains this funding at \$10M, in addition to reappropriating roughly \$33M in unexpended funds. We urge the Legislature and Executive to ensure this funding remains in the enacted budget, and that this funding is quickly awarded to providers.

- **Increase Funding for the Family Planning Grant (FPG) by \$15M.** The FPG facilitates access to a range of critical primary preventive and reproductive care services, such as birth control, STI testing and treatment, and reproductive health counseling for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals. Funding for this program has failed to keep up with the rising costs of care and is now at risk of additional cuts as a result of the Trump Administration’s pending budget and regulatory actions related to the [federal Title X family planning program](#). Title X provides roughly \$12M in funding to NYSDOH to support the state’s FPG, funding which must be replaced if the state is once again forced exit the Title X program due to untenable federal restrictions.

The FPG was flat funded in the Governor’s Executive Budget, which does not contemplate the potential loss of Title X funding and how severely that loss will impact those who rely on this program. In recognition of the serious risks to federal Title X funding, it is critical that state funding for the FPG be increased to \$15M in the enacted budget. Additionally, we urge the legislature to renew their annual \$1M appropriation for the grant. This is necessary to maintain existing funding levels of the grant to protect providers’ ability to deliver essential health care services to New Yorkers in need.

- **Fund the Gender-Affirming Care Access Program (\$8M).** Everyone deserves access to the care they need free from discrimination and financial burdens. Unfortunately, the increasing costs of treatment coupled with the relentless attacks on gender-affirming care has seriously impacted transgender and non-binary individuals’ ability to afford, or access medical care at all. Despite the [proven benefits of gender-affirming care](#), more than half of the states across the country have enacted bans or restrictions on health care services for transgender and nonbinary people. On top of state bans, President Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders seeking to undermine protections for gender-diverse communities that took decades to achieve. More recently, the federal administration proposed two new rules that would further restrict transgender and non-binary individuals’ access to care. The first would prohibit Medicaid from covering gender-affirming care for young people, and the second would bar general hospitals that provide gender-affirming care to young people from receiving any federal funding.

Cutting access to gender-affirming care with harsh financial restrictions only hurts some of the most vulnerable in New York. The state must act to not only protect the legal status of gender-affirming care, but to make access a reality for all who need it with meaningful financial support to facilitate the delivery of this essential care. We respectfully request the Gender-Affirming Care Access Program (A.8841/S.7924) be

included in policy language, with an appropriation of \$8M in the enacted budget to support the initiation of the program.

- **Increase to \$10M funding for the Lorena Borjas Transgender Wellness & Equity Fund.** This program provides vital funding for organizations delivering a range of services and supports for transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming New Yorkers. In the face of escalating attacks New York must ensure that funding to support the critical work of dozens of non-profits that are a vital lifeline to our trans and gender-nonconforming communities in New York. The Executive Budget funds this program at \$4.75M, but more is needed to keep pace with the escalating costs of providing these vital supports, and the growing need for services. We urge the houses to ensure \$10M in funding for this program in the enacted budget.

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