



## ***Coalition Of Provider Associations***

### **COPA Members:**

*Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc. (ALIA)*

*Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS)*

*Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY (DDAWNY)*

*InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc. (IAC)*

*New York Association of Emerging & Multicultural Providers, Inc. (NYAEMP)*

**June 28, 2017**

**TO: COPA Members**

On June 27, COPA participated in a Washington, DC lobbying effort with select members of the New York Congressional delegation to ensure they oppose the Senate's latest health care proposal which would cut billions in federal Medicaid and health care funding to New York. Alongside representatives of labor unions (1199 and AFL/CIO), hospitals (HANYS/GNYHA), consumer advocates, disability rights groups, Medicare and Medicaid advocates, COPA met with Republican House members to either thank them for voting against the House proposal and/or to seek their vote against the latest Senate version of repeal and replace legislation. In addition to meeting with House members, the group met with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's key aide on health issues to thank the Senator for her efforts to oppose the legislation and to identify strategies the broad based coalition can implement as the Senate proposal negotiations continue. It was clear from our meetings throughout the day, that even with the delay to after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has almost \$200 billion to use as rewards/enticements to sway opposing Republican Senators to support the Republican bill. The bill is still very much in play, and McConnell is a master negotiator – **New York State representatives must be urged to vote against the proposal in the Senate if/when it gets to the House.**

Among the Republican House members visited by the Coalition were Representatives Elise Stefanik, John Katko, Claudia Tenney, Pete King, Daniel Donovan, and John Faso. Throughout the day, a common thread among House members was that they understood the House bill had been flawed, but most hoped that the Senate version would have been better than what has been produced to date. Given the current Senate bill, Congressman King informed us that he had told the White House that he would oppose the bill, in its current form, if it were to pass and come to the House for a vote. Congressmen Katko and Donovan could not indicate how they would vote on a bill that has not been put to a Senate vote. However, it seems unlikely that either would change their vote against legislation which is harsher than the House version without significant alterations/improvements in New York State's favor. Congresswoman Stefanik's staff indicated that they were gathering input from constituents and would review the Senate version, if it passed, reserving a decision on the bill until they saw its final form. Congresswoman Tenney expressed concerns about the lack of true negotiations across the aisle on this legislation, and she

then proceeded to tell the group that the Faso-Collins provision, which cuts an additional \$2.3 billion from New York State Medicaid funding, would have no impact on taxpayers/New York residents since the Governor has a “slush fund” he can use to make up the shortfall. Congressman Faso’s staff member reiterated the need to cut Medicaid costs since future spending will “clearly cripple our economy” in out years.

The coalition was able to present labor, provider, patient/consumer perspectives, in a wide array of health and long term care settings that are dependent on Medicaid which clearly made a favorable impression on the elected officials and their staff members. There is much work to do with Representatives Tenney and Faso who seem to have put their political differences with Governor Cuomo ahead of the interests of New York State’s residents. The current Senate bill will negatively affect people across the country and will disproportionately harm New York State because of: the Faso-Collins provision, which singles out the State for an additional \$2.3 billion Medicaid cut; an “equity adjustment” for states that have generous Medicaid programs; cuts in federal funding for States that expanded Medicaid under the ACA – a cut of \$7 billion annually beginning in 2024 for New York; and includes a reduction in any payment increases tied to inflation for naturally occurring price increases, thereby cutting funding. If the Senate bill goes through, people’s lives will be negatively affected – and people with disabilities will be among those to see the most dramatic cuts in supports and services as the result of the cuts to Medicaid. We must keep pressure on our House Representatives, particularly those Republican members who voted in favor of the House bill, so that they understand the devastating impact the Senate bill will have on all New York residents and particularly on New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and their families.

COPA asks that you continue to call the New York Representatives below (even if you are not a constituent) and tell them:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am the parent/relative/friend of a person with developmental disabilities. I am calling to ask you to oppose any legislation that would cut or cap Medicaid. Medicaid funds 90% of essential services for people with developmental disabilities. Medicaid cuts or caps would seriously endanger this population.

Call:

1. Representative Chris Collins 202-225-5265
2. Representative John Faso 202-225-5614
3. Representative Peter T. King 202-225-7896
4. Representative Tom Reed 202-225-3161
5. Representative Elise Stefanik 202-225-4611
6. Representative Claudia Tenney 202-225-3665
7. Representative Lee Zeldin 202-225-3826
8. Representative John Katko - 202-225-3701
9. Representative Daniel Donovan – 202-225-3371

**Ask your friends and relatives to make these calls, too!**

We will continue to work with our partners on this coalition to protect Medicaid for people with disabilities and all in our community who depend upon it.

Below is a good article on the impact of the Senate bill on NYS:

<http://www.cpofnys.org/senate-health-care-bill-will-cost-new-york-billions-more-than-the-house-version/>