July 25, 2017

To the New York State Congressional Delegation:

Our coalition of New York State consumers, health care and human service workers, providers and insurers, is reaching out once again to reiterate our continued concerns with the ongoing efforts on Capitol Hill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Senate recently released a revised draft of its ACA repeal bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which unfortunately retains the most damaging provisions that would take hundreds of billions of dollars from the Medicaid program and jeopardize coverage for millions of Americans, including millions of New Yorkers.

We understand the Senate may vote on BCRA in the coming days. We appreciate the bipartisan support from those Delegation members who opposed the AHCA and have stated their opposition to the BCRA. Should the BCRA pass the Senate and return to the House for a vote, we ask the entire Delegation to stand together in opposition to this bill.

It does not, as some had anticipated, "moderate" the bill in particular by reducing the level of Medicaid cuts. In fact, its provisions are *more* harmful to New York State and we strongly urge you to reject it. As we have written before, the BCRA includes dramatic cuts to the Medicaid program through a proposed per capita cap, and unfairly targets New York's Medicaid program for providing a robust set of benefits to seniors and people with disabilities that costs more

than what some other states spend for less comprehensive coverage, ultimately shifting funds away from New York and to other states with less robust programs.

In addition, BCRA may include a provision that would allow health plans to offer less comprehensive coverage options, provided they have at least one plan that adheres to the robust set of benefits required under ACA. This segregation of risk will cause instability in our state's individual market, with unaffordable premiums for the sick, and potentially high deductibles for the healthy in low premium plans should they experience a major health event.

BRCA will also significantly reduce funding for our state's Essential Plan, jeopardizing coverage for 700,000 low-income New Yorkers and leading to higher prices in our state's individual insurance market, especially for older New Yorkers. And the bill hits providers hard by imposing cuts at the same time as the number of uninsured people seeking care will rise.

Once again, we ask that the entire New York State Congressional Delegation vote against this harmful legislation if it is sent back to the House and instead fight for policies that:

- Ensure uninterrupted health insurance coverage for the 24 million Americans, including the 850,000 New Yorkers, who gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Do not harm New York State's budget and do not shortchange New York's Medicaid program by repealing the expansion under the ACA and profoundly restructuring it into a per capita cap program
- Protect the more than 700,000 New Yorkers who gained coverage under the ACA's Essential Plan
- Do not harm health care consumers and providers
- Maintain and improve our insurance markets for individuals, families, and small employers

We urge you to work together with your colleagues and New York's healthcare and human services community to advance policies that benefit your constituents. We stand ready to work with you on such an effort.

Greater New York Hospital Association
Healthcare Association of New York State
Leading Age New York
Coalition of Provider Associations (COPA)
Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS (CP of NYS)
New York State Rehabilitation Association
NYS Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA)
NYSARC
Community Healthcare Association of New York State
New York State Association of Health Care Providers
Home Care Association of New York State
Continuing Care Leadership Coalition
Greater New York Health Facilities Association
Medical Society of the State of New York
Community Service Society of New York
Medicare Rights Center
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Children's Health Fund
New York Association on Independent Living
Consumers Union
Coalition of New York State Public Health Plans
UJA Federation New York
New York StateWide Senior Action Council
Citizen Action
Health Care for All New York
Metro New York Health Care for All
New York State AFL-CIO
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
New York State Nurses Association
New York State United Teachers
Doctors Council SEIU
Communications Workers of America District 1
Civil Service Employees Association
United University Professions
Professional Staff Congress