



**Coalition Of Provider Associations**

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December 13, 2017

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the Coalition of Provider Associations (COPA) and the more than 250 nonprofit agencies across New York State, we want to thank you for your support of people with developmental disabilities, their families, volunteers and staff. We have grave concerns about the current House and Senate tax bills because of the potentially devastating impact on supports and services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.

Our concerns include:

- The changes to state and local taxes would have a significant negative impact on New York State’s budget and require further cuts to Medicaid which finances supports and services for people with developmental disabilities.
- The addition of \$1.5 trillion to the national debt may be used to justify future cuts in Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security which are the main federal programs that support people with developmental disabilities.
- The House legislation's elimination of access to tax-exempt private activity bonds, which are used to finance supports and services for people with developmental disabilities, will result in increased borrowing costs at a time when state and federal financial support are under threat of further reduction. This proposed elimination would significantly undermine the financing of supports and services for people with disabilities and many others.
- The changes proposed to the charitable tax deduction will reduce the ability of nonprofit disability service providers to fund important services for people with developmental disabilities.
- As the only other federal support for Medicaid long term services and supports, the House-passed legislation’s medical expense deduction removal could put significant strain on the Medicaid program that supports people with developmental disabilities.
- The changes to the unrelated business income tax (UBIT) will impact the ability of nonprofit providers and their associations to maintain limited but important revenues.

We look forward to working with you to eliminate these harmful provisions and ensure the stability of supports and services that New Yorkers with disabilities rely on to participate fully in society.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc.

  
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**Representing More Than 250 Provider Agencies in New York State**