

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 10, 2025

## Congress Must Act to Protect the Essential Plan

To New York State Representatives:

We are asking you to protect the New York Essential Plan, which provides high-quality, affordable healthcare to 1.6 million New Yorkers, by opposing provisions in the federal reconciliation bill that would slash funding for the plan by \$7.6 billion or 57 percent annually, require New York State taxpayers to support an additional \$2.7 billion in annual Medicaid costs, and withdraw access to healthcare for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

The Essential Plan is a critical source of coverage for immigrants and US citizens alike, offering coverage to those who earn less than 250% of the federal poverty line and are not eligible for employer-sponsored insurance or Medicaid. The plan, which is federally funded, saves enrolled New Yorkers an average of \$4,700 per year on healthcare, according to the New York State Department of Health.

The version of the reconciliation bill passed by the House would threaten this coverage by making millions of lawfully present immigrants – including many green card holders – ineligible for federal healthcare funding, including the Essential Plan. This would threaten healthcare access across the country, but it would be especially disastrous in New York, which is home to 1.8 million non-citizen immigrants. It is important to note that undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for Essential Plan coverage, and all the immigrants impacted by the Essential Plan are lawfully present; these immigrants, including green card holders, refugees, victims of trafficking, those present on student visas and a variety of other groups, would lose access to coverage. New York State officials have [analyzed](#) the impact of these proposals, and they are nothing short of catastrophic, costing the state at least \$10 billion and over 200,000 jobs, and forcing 250,000 New Yorkers to become uninsured:

- **750,000 of New York's 1.6 million Essential Plan enrollees will be disqualified, leading to an annual \$7.6 billion loss of federal funding.** Federal EP funding will decline by 57%.
- Among those pushed out of the Essential Plan, **250,000 will become uninsured.** These individuals – all of whom are lawfully residing in the US – will not be eligible for ACA Premium Tax Credits and will not be able to afford the nearly \$10,000 annual cost of unsubsidized coverage, so they will have no access to health insurance.
- Because New York is constitutionally obligated to provide health insurance to legal immigrants, an additional 500,000 people will become eligible for state-only Medicaid. Providing this coverage will **cost New York taxpayers an additional \$2.7 billion.**
- The 850,000 New Yorkers remaining in the Essential Plan will suffer from the massive loss of funding, which may force the state to curtail benefits, increase costs or even eliminate the program.

- Kicking hundreds of thousands of immigrants off the Essential Plan and the New York ACA exchange will raise costs in those programs. Immigrants are typically younger and healthier than the average enrollee, so eliminating them from the risk pool will drive up costs for everyone.
- Increasing the uninsurance rate and moving hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers from the Essential Plan to Medicaid will be costly for our state's healthcare providers. Hospitals receive lower reimbursement rates from Medicaid than from the Essential Plan, and they receive no payment for treating the uninsured; these changes will **cost the hospital industry hundreds of millions of dollars.**

Hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are lawfully present in New York, and who live, work and pay taxes in our communities, would see their coverage threatened. Again, these changes have nothing to do with eliminating coverage for undocumented immigrants. Undocumented immigrants are *already* ineligible for the Essential Plan. The reconciliation bill would eliminate coverage for lawfully present immigrants.

In short, these changes would be a disaster for New York – withdrawing billions of dollars a year in federal funding for the state, imposing \$2.7 billion annually in increased Medicaid costs, raising healthcare prices for hundreds of thousands of US citizens who access healthcare through New York State of Health, and leading to the closure of safety-net hospitals many New Yorkers from all walks of life rely on. It would also have an enormous economic impact: One recent analysis showed that this and related proposals could cost the state 215,000 jobs.

That's why we are calling on New York's representatives to protect our healthcare system by rejecting changes to eligibility for the Essential Plan, Premium Tax Credits and other ACA funding in the reconciliation bill.

Signed,

**Labor**

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AFSCME New York

Communications Workers of America, District 1

Civil Service Employees Association

District Council 37

New York State AFL-CIO

New York State Nurses Association

New York State United Teachers

Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

United Federation of Teachers

**Policy and Advocacy**

Alliance for Quality Education

Bronx United Progressives

Caring Majority Rising  
Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)  
Center for Elder Law & Justice  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)  
Council of Seniors Centers & Services of New City Inc.  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
Greater NYC for Change  
Hudson Valley Demands New York Health  
Indivisible Brooklyn  
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County  
Literacy Assistance Center  
Long Island Network for Change (LINC)  
Mount Vernon United Tenants  
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York State Alliance for Retired Americans  
Nonprofit New York  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
Northwest Bronx Indivisible  
NYC Fair  
NYCD16/15-Indivisible  
Rise and Resist/Health Care Action Group  
Safety Net Project - Urban Justice Center  
Saratoga Immigration Coalition  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Show Up LI  
Strong Economy For All Coalition  
Suffolk Progressives  
Tompkins County Progressives  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

**Public Health and Healthcare**

Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled  
Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.  
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center  
Campaign for New York Health  
CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)  
Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
Medicaid Matters New York  
Metro New York Health Care for All  
MetroPlus Health  
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition

Person Centered Care Services  
Safety Net Primary Care Association

**Social Services and Community Based Organizations**

Arab American Family Support Center  
Bronx Developmental Disabilities Council  
Bronx House  
Carroll Gardens Association (CGA)  
CASES  
Children's Aid  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)  
Citymeals on Wheels  
Civil Aid Services, Inc.  
CMP  
Counseling In Schools, Inc.  
Day One  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
DSI International  
Encore Community Services  
Fifth Avenue Committee  
Fountain House, Inc.  
Girl Vow  
Grand Street Settlement  
Hamilton-Madison House  
HANAC, Inc.  
Heights and Hills  
Henry Street Settlement  
Hetrick-Martin Institute  
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing  
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement  
JASA  
JASA Legal Services for Elder Justice  
La Colmena  
Lantern Community Services  
Make the Road New York  
Mekong NYC  
Neighbors Together  
New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)  
NMIC  
Project Guardianship  
Queens Community House  
Safe Horizon  
Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc  
Sunnyside Community Services  
The Child Center of NY  
The Children's Village and Harlem Dowling

The Legal Aid Society (NYC)  
United Chinese Association of Brooklyn  
United Sikhs  
United Way & 211 New York Inc.  
United Way of New York City  
University Settlement Society of New York  
Volunteers of America-Greater New York  
YWCA of Queens