



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
322 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

We are writing to you and other members of New York's Congressional Delegation to express our significant concerns about proposals in Congress to end the entitlement to Medicaid and cap funding to states.

Certain versions of this proposal would cut federal spending on Medicaid by \$1 trillion nationally and \$103 billion in New York over ten years, according to analyses by the Congressional Budget Office and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Importantly, these cuts would be in addition to those imposed by the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which is estimated to cost our state \$3.7 billion in federal support in the first year alone.

Even if a per capita or block grant proposal were to be enacted without initial cuts, Medicaid would then be subject to annual battles over funding. As with social services block grants previously, this will certainly result in cuts over time as the program becomes a source for budget savings.

While much of the public conversation focuses on the working poor who gained Medicaid coverage under the expansion, nearly half of Medicaid spending is for beneficiaries who are aged and disabled. Long-term care cuts now or in future budgets will inevitably harm this vulnerable population.

New York's nursing homes, home care agencies and adult day health care programs employ 460,000 New Yorkers in the care of roughly as many of our state's residents. These services for those in need also contribute to economic productivity by ensuring that caregivers are not required to miss work or leave their jobs to take care of loved ones.

The results of a decline in Federal support for New York's Medicaid program would be dramatic: severe reductions in reimbursement for providers, limits on needed services for beneficiaries or denying beneficiaries coverage all together. Either direct rate cuts or limiting services and coverage would result in losses to providers, jeopardizing their financial stability and continued existence. Rural parts of the state are particularly vulnerable, with a limited number of providers. Many of those providers are already in precarious financial states.

As our population ages, we can expect long-term care needs to increase. While per capita caps at first glance may seem to take into account this population growth and thus be preferable to hard-dollar block grants, achieving the goal of reductions in Federal spending will still result in dramatic funding cuts at the state level.

We urge you to oppose these destructive proposals and ensure that New York receives the Medicaid funding it needs to provide high quality services to our state's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Hill  
Executive Director  
Adult Day Health Care Council

Claudia Hammar  
President  
NYS Association of Health Care Providers

Scott Amrhein  
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Continuing Care Leadership Coalition

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