



Please **REJECT** the Governor's proposal to combine appropriations for important health initiatives!

As organizations committed to encouraging healthier lifestyles and reducing the risks affiliated with chronic diseases, we ask for your **REJECTION of the Governor's proposal** to combine legislative appropriations for many important health programs in a pooled appropriation, and to plan to reduce this pooled funding by 20%.

Under this proposal, important health programs benefitting millions of New Yorkers are threatened to be cut. Included in this consolidation are programs that reduce the morbidity and mortality of chronic diseases, including: Hypertension Funding, Obesity and Diabetes Programs, Cancer Screening Services, Children's Asthma, and many others. Additionally, the proposed consolidation and cuts include important programs that allow people to remain in the community rather than in a nursing home, including the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion waiver and Enriched housing subsidies.

As a legislator, you know the importance of encouraging healthier lifestyles and supporting prevention and screening to reduce risks of chronic diseases. Chronic diseases—such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and asthma -- are the leading causes of disability and death in New York State. More than 40% of New York adults suffer from a chronic disease and six out of every 10 deaths in New York State are caused by one of these diseases. ***New Yorkers cannot afford to live without these vital health programs.***

These state health interventions being considered in the consolidation exist today to prevent, reduce or delay much of the chronic disease burden. Preventing chronic diseases is a smart investment for New York State.

Please retain the separate appropriations for the above programs and reject the Governor's proposed consolidation so important health interventions can continue in the upcoming year.

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