

June 5, 2020

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We the undersigned individuals and organizations—including community health centers, HIV service providers, health plans, patients and providers — strongly urge you to reverse the harmful plan to move the pharmacy benefit from Medicaid Managed Care to Fee-For-Service (FFS) – the “Medicaid carve out” – that is in the New York State Budget for FY21.

While we support broader proposals to lower the costs of prescription drugs and increase transparency in contracting practices by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), the unintended damage to safety net providers from the Medicaid Managed Care carve-out will seriously undermine our ability to care for our patients.

The pharmacy carve-out plan will result in irrevocable damage to our state’s health care safety net system, threatening critical access to health care and treatment for the most vulnerable New Yorkers and will stall progress on your historic plan to end New York’s HIV epidemic, leading to a rise in HIV infections and increased mortality and poor health outcomes for people living with HIV. We also question the state’s assumption that the plan will save money, as the harm to health care access in medically underserved communities will cost the state money in increased healthcare costs from poorer health outcomes.

IMPACT

- The Medicaid carve out would inadvertently undermine the 340B drug pricing program, a program that is already reducing drug costs. We are deeply concerned that the loss of 340B savings will undermine our ability to address health disparities among low-income New Yorkers, particularly in communities of color.
- Loss of these funds will force safety net providers to eliminate services, downsize operations and close locations. Patients will experience worse health outcomes, require additional inpatient care, and be forced to use hospital emergency rooms for care as community health centers close, costing the state far more in Medicaid spending. Furthermore, the New York’s safety net is reeling from the devastating public health crisis that COVID-19 poses.

PROPOSAL THREATENS THE NEW YORK SAFETY NET & PUBLIC HEALTH WHEN WE ARE MOST VULNERABLE

- As outlined in the budget, implementation of the plan will not take effect until 2021. Providers will be recovering from COVID-19, and the cut will add a second adverse financial wave that New York’s safety net cannot sustain.
- The proposal threatens public health when New Yorkers are the most vulnerable. 340B providers are on the front lines caring for patients who have been exposed to COVID-19 and keeping other patients healthy and out of overburdened hospitals.
- It is not an overstatement to say that the 340B benefit is and will be more instrumental in fighting COVID-19 and that the 340B program is helping to sustain the safety net now more than ever.
- Individual and public health will also be negatively impacted. FFS management of the pharmacy benefit would bring a single, generalized formulary to 6 million NYS Medicaid recipients, replacing tailored formularies such as Special Needs Plans that care for patients living with multiple chronic conditions and requiring management of complex drug regimens and interactions.
- Lack of a tailored formulary, loss of real-time access to personalized pharmacy benefit teams who are trained to understand the unique needs of the 14,000 HIV+ SNP members, and delays in access

to optimal therapy will lead to increased risk of transmission, more medical complications, higher treatment costs and worse health outcomes.

We urge you to immediately reverse the plan to move the Medicaid Managed Care pharmacy benefit to Fee-For-Service, and stand ready to work with the State on strategies to control Medicaid spending in a manner that will not place the burden of cost-saving measures on those least able to sustain cuts to services—the thousands of medically underserved New Yorkers that rely on the State’s safety net providers.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned [see attached list]

cc

Howard Zucker
Paul Francis
Robert Mujica
Donna Frescatore
Johanne Morne
Megan Baldwin
Frank Walsh
Amir Bassiri

<u>Organizations</u>		
Acacia Network	Bronx	New York
ACC	New York	New York
ACR Health	Syracuse	New York
AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC)	Jamaica	New York
ACQC/AHF	Woodside	New York
Advocacy Center of Queens County	Jamaica	New York
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	New York	New York
Albany Damien Center	Albany	New York
Ali Forney Center	New York	New York
Alliance for Positive Change	New York	New York
Amida Care	New York	New York
Apicha Community Health Center	New York	New York
Bailey House	New York	New York
Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center	Brooklyn	New York
Betances Health Center	New York	New York
BOOM!Health	Bronx	New York
BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.	Brooklyn	New York
CAEAR Coalition	Washington	DC
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center	New York	New York
Central New York Services, Inc.	Syracuse	New York
ChemRx Pharmacy Services, LLC	Long Beach	New York
Coalition of Medication Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates (COMPA)	New York	New York
Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment	New York	New York
Community Health Action (CHASI)	Staten Island	New York
Community Health Care Association of New York State	New York	New York
Community Healthcare Network	New York	New York
Damian Family Care Centers	Jamaica	New York
EngageWell IPA	New York	New York
Evergreen Health	Buffalo	New York
Family Care Pharmacy	Huntington Station	New York
Family Services Network of New York	Brooklyn	New York
GMHC	New York	New York
Harlem United	New York	New York
HealthCare Choices NY	Brooklyn	New York
HeartShare St. Vincent Services	Brooklyn	New York
Helio Health, Inc.	Syracuse	New York
Highbridge Woodycrest Center	Bronx	New York
Hispanic Federation	Albany	New York
Hispanic Health Network	New York	New York
Housing Works	New York	New York
Hudson River Health Care	New York	New York
Hudson Valley Community Services	Hawthorne	New York
iHealth	New York	New York
Insight House Chemical Dependency Services, Inc.	Utica	New York
Iris House, Inc.	New York	New York

Korean Community Service	Bayside	New York
Latino Commission on AIDS	New York	New York
Long Island FQHC, Inc.	Westbury	New York
MERKPHARMAINC	Bronx	New York
MOUNT SINAI	Brooklyn	New York
MOUNT SINAI INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MEDICINE	New York	New York
Mount Sinai West Outpatient Infectious Disease Pharmacy	New York	New York
National Black Leadership Commission on Health, Inc.	New York	New York
New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers (ASAP)	Albany	New York
Omnes BHCC	Syracuse	New York
Options for Community Living, Inc.	Ronkonkoma	New York
Outreach Development Corporation	Richmond Hill	New York
Positive Impact Health Centers	Duluth	Georgia
Project Safety Net NY	Hauppauge	New York
Quick Rx Pharmacy Group	New York	New York
Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS	Rochester	New York
St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Centers	Saranac Lake	New York
STAP - Southern Tier AIDS Program, Inc.	Binghamton	New York
The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group-HCMSG	New York	New York
The NEW Pride Agenda	New York	New York
TOUCH-Together Our Unity Can Heal	Congers	New York
Treatment Action Group	New York	New York
Trillium Health	Rochester	New York
Union Community Health Center	Bronx	New York
VIP Community Services	Bronx	New York
VNSNY CHOICE SelectHealth	New York	New York
VOCAL-NY	Brooklyn	New York
Woodhull Prescription Center	Brooklyn	New York
<u>Individuals</u>		
Alan Curle, MD	Rochester	New York
Alonzo Goode, HIV Counselor	New York	New York
Andrea Demeo, MBA	Rochester	New York
Aniket Thakar, Masters in Industrial Pharmacy	Woodhaven	New York
Anthony Leggio, PharmD	Melville	New York
Arturo Castillo, Care Manager	New York	New York
Barry Alstaedter, MBA	Melville	New York
Betty Kolod, MD AAHIVS	Bronx	New York
Brandon Bissell-Evans	Albany	New York
Brian Frasier, MS, CHFP	Mechanicville	New York
Briana Pangrazio, PharmD	Rochester	New York
Caleigh Bridgeman	Spencerport	New York
Carol Barclay	Wynantskill	New York
Caroline Davidson, MPH	New York	New York
Charles Owens, B.A.	Rochester	New York
Charles Seide, Registered Pharmacist	Long Beach	New York

Cherie Harris	Jamaica	New York
Chirag Parikh, Supervising RPH	East Meadow	New York
Christopher Woodring, PHARM D	Rochester	New York
Cindy Becker	Rochester	New York
Corrine Powell, Master's of Social Work	Jamaica	New York
Cynthia Reddick-Lidestri, MD	Rochester	New York
Dalitza Warkenthien, Front Office Clerk	New York	New York
Daniel Ramirez, BA	New York	New York
Daniela Sanclemente, B.S.	College Point	New York
Danielle Sestito, PharmD	New Hyde Park	New York
David Higgs	Rochester	New York
Dhiren Patel, Rph	Wood ridge	New Jersey
Diana Toussaint	Brooklyn	New York
Dierdre Wallace-Hines, MSW, LCSW	Mount Vernon	New York
Dorothy Richards	Albany	New York
Douglas Lindke, RPh, BS Pharmacy	Rochester	New York
Eric R. McCurdy, Ph.D	Schenedtady	New York
Evangelia Katsamanis, RPH	Farmingdale	New York
Gail Brown, MS	Bronx	New York
Gisela Rodriguez Bonilla, MBA	Farmingdale	New York
Gladys Valverde	Albany	New York
Gray Brown, MPH	Rochester	New York
Gregory Ewing, JD, MPH, CISSP, CCSA	Rochester	New York
Halim Suffolk	Central Islip	New York
James Vesper, PhD, MPH	Rochester	New York
Jamie Wagner, HIV/HCV Patient Care Specialist	East Islip	New York
Janette Raue	New York	New York
Janice Lyu, MS	New York	New York
Jason Barnecut-Kearns, ACMA/GCMA	Rochester	New York
Jason Mazzuca, BA in Sociology	Schenectady	New York
Jason Stevens, MMHC, CASAC-T, CARC, ADS	New York	New York
Jay Shufelt, BA Public Policy, MPA Candidate	Albany	New York
Jessica Costello, PharmD	Rochester	New York
John Galletta, CPhT	Islip	New York
Juli Grey-Owens, TGNCI Community Advocate	Huntington Station	New York
Julia Richards, BS Public Health and Emergency Preparedness	Delmar	New York
Kaileena Taylor, CPhT	Bronx	New York
Kathryn Korol	Rochester	New York
Kelly Capozzi	Melville	New York
Laura Anhalt, LCSW	Jamaica	New York
Laura Shannon, BA Community and Human Services	Patchogue	New York
Lawrence Goldstein, BS Pharmacy; MBA Marketing/Management	Jamaica	New York
Leslie Connolly, JD	Rochester	New York
Libby Post, MA	Menands	New York
Lisa Sanchez	Ridgewood	New York
Louis Morandi	Melville	New York
Luis Rene Perez, CPhT	Brooklyn	New York

Mark Malahosky, R.Ph.Bpharm	Rochester	New York
Marlene LaLota, MPH	New York	New York
Martha Giardina, RN	New York	New York
Maud Easter	Delmar	New York
Michelle Lettieri, RDN/CDN	Jamaica	New York
Michelle Valladares Francis, CPhT	Jamaica	New York
Mitchell Caponi, MPH	New York	New York
Moraima Toribio, CASAC T/Human Services	Brooklyn	New York
Natalie G.	Bayshore	New York
Nicole Castaldo	Melville	New York
Orlando Perez	New York	New York
Paul Graham	Brooklyn	New York
Perry Junjulas, MBA, PWA	Albany	New York
Richard Fowler, NYS Certified Peer Worker	Spencerport	New York
Richard Moran, Jr. M.Div	Scotia	New York
Robert Hamilton, LCSW	Oyster Bay	New York
Saroya Nicholson	Jamaica	New York
Scott Peck, NY/340B Regional Manager	Brooklyn	New York
Selene Castrucci	New York	New York
Sharon Doctor, MPH	New York	New York
Shatarra Barnes, LMSW	Bronx	New York
Sherri Rosenvold, CphT	Ronkonkoma	New York
Stephen Mascilo	Pittford	New York
Tiera Proctor, PharmD	Rochester	New York
Timothy Scheie, PhD	Rochester	New York
Tina Vournan, PharmD	Bayside	New York
Todd Cramer	Schenectady	New York
Todd Jusko, MS, PhD	Rochester	New York
Vanessa Encinas, BS	East Elmhurst	New York
Victor Desantis, Master of Science	Niskayuna	New York
Vincent Alleva, BS Pharmacy	Farmingdale	New York
Virginia Shubert	Brooklyn	New York
William Clark, MBA/Retired CEO of Urban League of Rochester	Rochester	New York
William Henederson, JD	Jamaica	New York
William Scott Daly, BSBA	Schenectady	New York
Xavier Wehe, Certified Pharmacy Technician	Farmingdale	New York