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PRESS STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV/AIDS Health Care & Service Providers Respond to Governor Cuomo’s World AIDS Day Announcement

Albany, NY – The New York chapter of Ryan White Clinics for 340B Access (RWC-340B) today issued the following statement in response to Governor Cuomo’s World AIDS Day announcement.

“Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Commission pulled the rug out from under the very same safety net providers that have been fighting back HIV/AIDS – and now they have the audacity to trumpet their misguided budget gimmick in a press release on World AIDS Day. This one-time handout in no way compensates us for our losses or the enormous burden this would bring to safety net providers, jeopardizing our ability to continue to provide critical services to our patients. It is incredibly disappointing that Governor Cuomo would choose World AIDS Day to distract from the very real pain that will be felt by the most at-risk members of our communities,” said **Shannon Stephenson, CPA, MBA, CEO of Cempa, and President of RWC-340B.**

Background

Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Team II (MRT II) inserted a provision into this year’s state budget that would require the New York Medicaid program to “carve out” the pharmacy benefit from the state’s Medicaid managed care program and shift payment of drugs covered under that benefit to fee-for-service reimbursement. If implemented, the carve out provisions included in the budget would harm Ryan White Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Safety Net Hospitals, and other safety net providers in the 340B drug discount program and adversely impact the financial stability of health care clinics across New York State. Clinics rely on this funding to operate food pantries, provide transportation assistance, STI screenings, and run harm reduction programs – services that often grossly underfunded by the state. If the carve out is not reversed, many patients across the state will simply have nowhere to turn. The provision will cost safety net providers in New York State an estimated \$154 million in federal resources over the first year and \$1.5 billion over the next five years.

For more information, please visit: www.RWC340b.org.

About the 340B Drug Pricing Program

The federal [340B Drug Discount Program](#) is a lifeline that allows safety net providers, including HIV/AIDS clinics receiving support under the Ryan White CARE Act, to obtain prescription drugs at below-retail prices. The program was established with bipartisan support

as part of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992. With 340B savings, Ryan White Clinics are able to stretch their grant funds, offer a wider range of services, and improve the quality of care for people living with HIV/AIDS. 340B savings enable providers in the state to supply prescription drugs to needy patients at reduced or no cost; assist patients with their insurance premiums to encourage medication adherence and continuous treatment; and provide medical services at little or no cost to patients.

About Ryan White Clinics for 340B Access

[Ryan White Clinics for 340B Access \(RWC-340B\)](#) is a national organization of HIV/AIDS medical providers receiving support under the Ryan White CARE Act. The CARE Act provides funding for services primarily to poor and/or uninsured people with HIV/AIDS. Ryan White providers are eligible to participate in the federal 340B Drug Discount Program, which enables them to expand and support care. In order to preserve access to this critically important program, members of RWC-340B have pledged to work together to advocate for the interests of fellow 340B Ryan White providers. The New York State Chapter of Ryan White Clinics for 340B Access was established to advocate for the reversal of carve out provisions included in the Medicaid Redesign Team II budget proposal.

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