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Senate Majority's COVID Relief Proposal Falls Short for Families, Workers, and State and Local Budgets

Albany, NY - The Senate Majority just announced the \$1 trillion HEALS Act COVID-19 relief package -- a drastic cut from the \$3 trillion HEROES Act proposed by House Democrats in May. The shortfall in federal relief aid will cause further harm to vulnerable communities in need of immediate funding for health care, housing, education, child care, and state and local governments. Senator Chuck Schumer must demand a better deal from Congress for everyday New Yorkers.

"Instead of protecting families, workers and the economy, Senate Republicans have proposed a package that does little to address mass unemployment, the loss of health care coverage, food insecurity, and state and local budget shortfalls," said **Stanley Fritz, Political Director of Citizen Action of New York**. "More than 32,000 people in New York have died from COVID-19 and over 1.5 million people have filed for unemployment. Millions more people need help to get through this tough time and take care of their families."

"Medicaid Matters New York urges policymakers to act swiftly. With public health and economic crises upon us, New Yorkers are struggling," said **Lara Kassel, Coordinator of Medicaid Matters New York**. "We need Congress to provide additional, substantial relief to ensure Medicaid remains strong and can do its job in supporting New York families. In the midst of a deep economic crisis and pandemic that are further exposing structural racism and related health impacts, it is increasingly clear that the enhanced federal Medicaid matching rate (FMAP) in the Families First Act is not enough: Congress must provide a significant additional FMAP increase with strong maintenance-of-effort provisions that ensure people are protected from losing coverage and benefits when they need them most."

"The new HEALS bill introduced by the Senate Majority is so woefully inadequate to meet the needs of struggling everyday New Yorkers that it is unworthy of further consideration," said **Mark Hannay, Director of Metro New York Health Care for All**. "We urge Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to stand strong with the House Majority to push for the HEROES Act instead and its strong health care provisions."

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