

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
188 State Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Speaker Carl Heastie  
188 State Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

April 13, 2026

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, and Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly,

**Re: Preserving New Yorkers' access to health coverage through the implementation of HR 1 and return to the Basic Health Program**

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to include a package of proposals in the FY 2026-27 budget to maintain coverage for 480,000 New Yorkers who are set to lose coverage under HR 1 between July 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027.

Under HR 1, federal funding for approximately 670,000 lawful immigrants will be terminated. As a result of a 2001 Court of Appeals decision, *Aliessa v. Novello*, the State must offer coverage to many lawful immigrants, even if there is no federal funding for them. In the proposed Executive Budget, the Governor included around \$3 billion to cover this population under the “worst case scenario” that the federal government rejected New York’s request to return to the Basic Health Program (BHP)—a policy lever that preserves coverage for 609,000 lawful immigrants and 690,000 citizen New Yorkers.

**But 470,000 New Yorkers will still lose coverage unless action is taken in the State Budget currently being negotiated. The undersigned organizations recommend that the Governor and the Legislature include the following three proposals in the FY 2026-27 State budget:**

**1. Maintain Essential Plan (EP) coverage for individuals with incomes between 200–250 percent FPL who are currently enrolled and are set to lose coverage in July 2026.**

On July 1, 2026, pending federal approval, EP coverage for 444,000 New Yorkers with incomes between 200 and 250 percent of FPL will end with the termination of the 1332 Waiver and return to a BHP. These New Yorkers need a viable health insurance coverage option for the remainder of 2026 and beyond.

Citizens, lawful immigrants (for the remainder of 2026), and HR 1 Qualified immigrants in this program will be eligible for financial assistance through the NY State of Health Marketplace. But for many, these plans will be unaffordable or a poor value proposition. This is because a typical “silver” plan for these individuals would cost around \$200 a month after subsidies and would come with a \$2,450 deductible for the remaining six months in the coverage year.

The State should buy Essential Plan coverage for these New Yorkers. Free coverage could be offered for as little as \$2 billion a year. But if the State requires a \$50 monthly premium, this program is estimated to cost between \$468 and \$824 million a year.

**2. Create a state-funded health insurance program for 6,000 individuals with DACA and PRUCOL status with incomes between 138–200 percent FPL.**

The State should create a state-funded EP program for a small group of immigrants, approximately 6,000 legal immigrants whose status makes them eligible for New York State Medicaid, but not the BHP. These immigrants have either Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival or belong to a small group of other legal immigrant statuses and have incomes between the State Medicaid income eligibility level (138 percent of FPL) and the BHP income eligibility level (200 percent of FPL).

The cost of covering this group of people would be between an estimated \$29 and \$50 million annually (2027), depending on the rate set for their premiums.

**3. Establish a state-funded ACA premium assistance program for 15,000 individuals with incomes between 200–400 percent FPL who will lose access to federal premium tax credits starting in January 2026.**

Under HR 1, for the first time since the enactment of the ACA, many lawfully present immigrants with incomes between 200 and 400 percent of FPL will lose eligibility for financial assistance, APTCs, to purchase Qualified Health Plans (QHP) through the ACA Marketplaces. In New York, there are approximately 20,000 lawfully present immigrants purchasing QHP coverage. In addition, there are an estimated 40,000 lawfully present immigrants who were enrolled in the 1332 Waiver’s EP expansion who will lose eligibility for APTCs and a small amount of CSRs.

Without financial assistance, the cost of a silver plan in the Marketplace is over \$850 per member per month, or \$10,200 a year. Immigrants enrolled in the Marketplace tend to be younger and healthier. Retaining their enrollment benefits their citizen counterparts because the enrollment of healthier and younger individuals brings down the costs of coverage for all enrollees due to New York’s pure community rating rules. The State should create a State-funded premium assistance program for 15,000 lawfully present immigrants beginning 2027 that would cost \$135 million per year.

As New York returns to the BHP, the State is in an enviable position to have over \$3 billion in the Executive Budget to help mitigate HR 1's impact on its residents and continue to move forward with the goal of achieving affordable, quality coverage for all of its residents. These policy proposals provide a flexible roadmap for New York to preserve coverage for 470,000 New Yorkers for as little as \$2.2 billion a year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Make the Road New York  
Health Care for all New York  
Community Service Society of NY  
Citizen Action of NY  
Medicaid Matters New York  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
New York State Nurses Association  
Community Health Care Association of New York State  
NYS Labor-Religion Coalition  
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics  
Doctors Council  
Primary Care Development Corporation  
Nurse Practitioners of Metropolitan New York (NPNY)  
Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Medicare Rights Center  
Hispanic Federation  
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts  
New York Coalition for Affordable Hospitals  
Caring Majority Rising  
Physicians for a National Health Program - New York Metro Chapter  
Robin Hood  
United Way NYS & 211 New York Inc.  
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
Adirondack Health Institute  
Finger Lakes Community Health  
Center for Elder Law & Justice  
Small Business Majority  
Housing Works Inc  
The Legal Aid Society  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
Children's Defense Fund-NY  
South Asian Council for Social Services  
Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network  
T1International New York Chapter  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)  
NEW Pride Agenda  
Young Invincibles

Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans, Inc. (CIANA)  
Saratoga Immigration Coalition  
La Red de Pueblos Trasnacionales  
Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York City, Inc.  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Legal Action Center  
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)  
Empire Justice Center  
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
New York Rare Disease Collaborative  
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition  
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice  
Judson Memorial Church  
Long Beach Latino Civic Association  
NY State Wide Senior Action Council  
United Neighborhood Houses  
Care For the Homeless  
Northern Regional Center for Independent Living  
Finger Lakes Independence Center  
ATI Cortland  
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Living Independently is For Everyone, Inc. at RCIL  
Independent Living Inc.  
Cabrini Immigrant Services NYC  
Social Justice Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church Riverdale  
Children's Health Fund  
Rise and Resist  
United Way of the Greater Capital Region  
Entertainment Community Fund  
Rise  
East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership  
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley  
Commission On The Public's Health System (CPHS)  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Bronx Independent Living Services  
Church Women United in New York State  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
Narrowing the Front Door to NYC's Child Welfare System  
LIFE at RCIL  
WNY Women's Foundation  
Resource Center of Independent Living  
New York Association on Independent Living  
BKForge: Brooklyn for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled  
Inter Agency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.  
Diverse Mosaic Community Center  
Suffolk Progressives  
Sierra Club  
Western New York Independent Living  
Resources Center for Accessible Living, Inc.

Orenda Wise, LLC.  
Catskill Center for Independence  
Southern Tier Independence Center  
Northwest Bronx Indivisible  
Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center  
Directions in Independent Living  
Metro New York Health Care for All  
Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.  
Putnam Progressives  
Upper West Side Action Group: Moveon/Indivisible/Swing Left  
Greater NYC for Change  
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow  
NYCD16/15-Indivisible  
Third Act NYC  
PEER/NYPAN Suffolk County  
Inwood Indivisible  
Indian Diaspora Council  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action - Long Island