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Public Policy & Government Relations Update
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Introduction

Public Policy and Government Relations is happy to provide our May 2026 Public Policy Update. In this edition we provide updates on the recently passed New York State budget, and we also give updates on federal developments. We invite you to read this update and **join us on July 15th for a lobby day in Washington D.C**. Details are included in this update.

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New York State Update

On May 28, the New York State legislature passed the final bills in the state budget. This year's budget was almost two months late. The final budget addressed some of our budget priorities, while others were not addressed. The following is a summary of the outcomes and additional items that could have an impact on HIV SNPs. *Please note that PPGR is still analyzing the recently passed budget*.

Priority	***Our Request***	***Outcome***
Medicaid	Full Fund Medicaid including Quality Incentive Programs	Medicaid was fully funded, including the Quality Incentive Programs. SNP Quality pool is expected to remain at current level
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)	Provide $350M in additional funding for FQHCs	Provided $80M in additional funding for FQHC
	Allow FQHCs to bill Medicaid for full on-site telehealth rate, at the same level as licensed mental and behavioral health clinics	Not included in the budget
	Include the 340B prescription drug anti-discrimination act	Not included
Gender Affirming Care	Increase funding for the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund (TWEF) by $4M to $10M	TWEF funding was not increased. It was maintained at the current level
	Provide $8M to fund Gender Affirming Care Access Fund	Not included in the budget
Safeguard SNP ability to monitor and assist member access to appropriate care	Exempt Medicaid from the Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process	Budget exempted Medicaid from the IDR process
	Modify Utilization Review Restrictions to allow more flexibility to safeguard patient care	Included in the budget

In the April Policy Update, PPGR described that up to 450,000 were at risk of losing health care coverage because of federal HR1 changes to New York's Essential plan. Amida Care is analyzing the budget to determine if and how this issue was addressed.

The budget also included reforms to protect immigrants including:

- Limits to local law enforcement ability to formally or informally collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Prevents local jails from housing immigrants on behalf of the federal government
- Allows New Yorkers to sue ICE for civil rights violations
- Limits immigration enforcement in sensitive locations including – health care facilities, houses of worship, summer camps. [*A warrant would be needed*]

To learn more about the immigrant protections please read this article: https://nysfocus.com/2026/05/22/hochul-budget-new-york-immigration-protections-collaboration-deal

To learn more about what's in the budget please read this article from City & State: https://www.cityandstateny.com/policy/2026/05/heres-whats-fy-27-new-york-state-budget/413729/

Federal Update

Federal threats to access to care for the communities served by Amida Care continue to mount. In the April PPGR update, we shared information about the President's budget proposal to cut almost $2B across all federal programs that address HIV. We also provided information about pending HR1 implementation of the Medicaid and health care cuts authorized by legislation. Already 450,000 NY'ers are at risk of losing their health insurance and that number is expected to grow to 1.3M if Congress does not act.

PPGR believes that Congress can fix these problems.

This is why we continue to raise our voice to educate legislators about the impacts of these actions. We do so through our Medicaid for US- New York [www.m4usny.org] campaign, media outreach and direct action.

We believe that now is the time to act. Therefore, ask you to join us for a Lobby Day in Washington D.C. on July 15th, 2026. PPGR is working with our community partners to set up visits with the New York Congressional delegation. We will provide access to a bus to Washington D.C. leaving from Amida Care offices and will provide advocacy training and the necessary support to all participants.

During these visits we will call on Congress to:

- Secure funding for HIV services and
- Take immediate action to fix the cuts to Medicaid caused by HR1

Get on the bus with us on July 15th! Please register directly with Casper Christiansen (cchristiansen@amidacareny.org).

PPGR Events & Advocacy

New Pride Agenda Advocacy Day in Albany

On Wednesday May 6th, Joe Pressley joined New Pride Agenda in Albany for a day of advocacy, which included a press conference where Joe spoke briefly about the continuous attacks on health care for the LGBTQ+ community, Amida Care's mission and the protection of Medicaid. The press conference was joined by Senator Erik Bottcher and Assemblymembers Harry Bronson and Keith Powers. The day also included meetings with legislators, including:

- Senator John Liu
- Assemblymember Keith Powers
- Senator Michael Gianaris
- Assemblymember Harry Bronson
- Assemblymember Jen Lunsford
- Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

New Pride Agenda Press Conference, May 6, 2026

Get on the bus with us to Washington DC on July 15 - Register with Casper Christiansen (cchristiansen@amidacareny.org)

PPGR Round Up

Thank you for reading this update, we hope that you are motivated to join us in taking action to protect our members, plan and provider network.

Additional Reading

Voting Rights Act (VRA)

Supreme Court limits Voting Rights Act

In a 6-3 ruling, the justices narrowed how a key provision of the Voting Rights Act can be enforced. For decades, Section 2 — a provision that broadly outlawed discrimination in voting on the basis of race — has been interpreted to allow, and sometimes demand, the use of race-conscious data in redistricting, to protect the voting power of minorities.

The court's new opinion, which split the justices along ideological lines, throws into question exactly how states can utilize race in their mapmaking process. The case involves a challenge to two majority-Black districts in Louisiana.

Liberal groups had feared the court would fully gut the law, allowing red states to redraw maps nationwide and effectively lock in GOP control of Congress. Republicans, meanwhile, believe that considering race in drawing congressional districts is discriminatory and unconstitutional. Read the full article here.

Supreme Court ruling Ushers in a New Era of Gerrymandering

Nearly 61 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, a defining moment for the civil rights movement – and a turning point for the nation. "Every family across this great, entire, searching land will live stronger in liberty, will live more splendid in expectation, and will be prouder to be American because of the act that you have passed, that I will sign today," Johnson said. Late last month, the Supreme Court ruled it was illegal for lawmakers in Louisiana to create a new majority-Black Congressional district. The 6-3 decision in Louisiana v. Callais, split along ideological lines, has enormous implications for who will wield power – and it will make it far more difficult for districts drawn on racial lines to survive. Read the full article here.

The U.S. Supreme Court Has Eviscerated the Voting Rights Act — What's Next?

While the Supreme Court's decision is a major setback, it is not the end of the fight for fair representation. The responsibility now shifts to Congress and state legislatures to ramp up their efforts to protect the freedom to vote, and Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan legal organization, and the entire pro-democracy movement will continue to advocate for policy solutions that uphold the ideals of our democracy.

Congress can and must act to enact protections nationwide against racial and partisan discrimination in redistricting, fulfilling its role as a co-equal branch of government and passing legislation to address the Supreme Court's repeated undermining of this landmark legislation. States can also adopt their own voting rights protections — such as State Voting Rights Acts — ensuring that voters are shielded from discrimination even when federal protections falter. Read the Op-Ed here.

HIV/AIDS

Trump administration cuts CDC's key role in global program to stop HIV

The Trump administration has struck what some see as the final blow to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which over 23 years has saved the lives of an estimated 26 million people in poor countries living with HIV. The Department of State says that as of 30 September, support for PEPFAR by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will end in most countries. PEPFAR has had bipartisan support since then-President George W. Bush (R)

launched it in 2003, and Congress allocated $4.5 billion to the program for this fiscal year. Roughly half of PEPFAR's funding flowed through CDC, which provided expertise and helped 46 recipient countries run HIV treatment and prevention programs. But guidance issued on 5 May by the State Department, which oversees PEPFAR and disburses its funding, reconfigures CDC's role so it's largely each country's decision whether to outsource work to the agency. Read the full article here.

New York City

Mamdani unveils $124.7B NYC budget, closing gap with state help while drawing warnings over 'short-term fixes'

Mayor Zohran Mamdani unveiled a $124.7 billion executive budget on Tuesday May 12 which he said closes New York City's historic budget gap without raising property taxes, slashing services, or drawing down long-term reserves — but fiscal watchdogs warned the plan relies on short-term maneuvers that could push budgetary pressures into future years.

The fiscal year 2027 spending plan is $2.3 billion smaller than Mamdani's preliminary budget and marks the administration's formal effort to close a deficit it says topped $12 billion when he took office. Mamdani said the city drove the gap down to $5.4 billion after the preliminary budget and has now closed it entirely through agency savings, state support, new revenue, and changes to major spending obligations. Read more here.

Gender Affirming Care

N.Y.C. Hospital Is Subpoenaed Over Trans Youth Health Care

NYU Langone disclosed that it received the subpoena last week and was asked "to provide information pertaining to patients under the age of 18 who received gender-affirming care" between 2020 and 2026. The subpoena also requested the names of NYU Langone medical staff members who provided the treatment between 2020 and 2026.

The subpoena sets up a potential showdown between the Justice Department and one of Manhattan's leading medical institutions. The hospital said that it was weighing what to do next. Read the full article here.