

Public Policy & Government Relations Update

June 2025

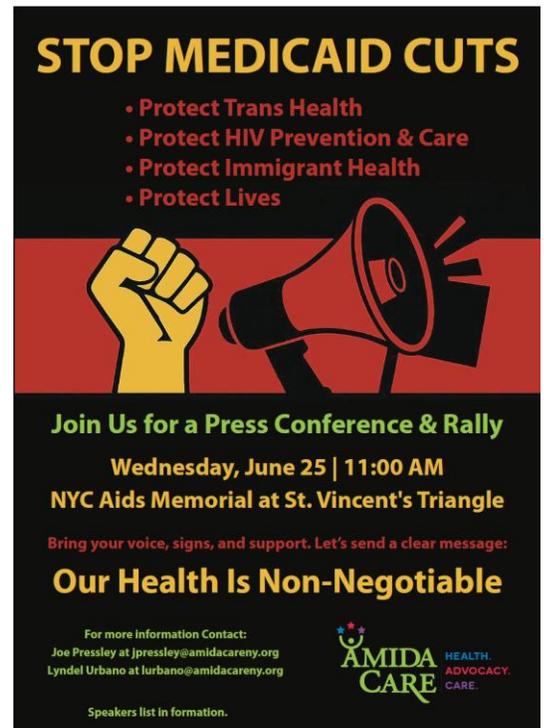
Volume 1: Issue 4

Summary & Priorities

Public Policy and Government Relations (PPGR) at Amida Care is actively involved in advocacy to stop dangerous federal cuts to Medicaid, social support programs and gender affirming care. We will continue to meet with legislators in Washington D.C. and mobilize community voices against the dangerous cuts. As you read this update, we urge you to act today.

Join our advocacy by making calls to your US Senators and members of Congress. Urge your friends and neighbors to also speak up and vote in the upcoming primaries if you are registered with a political party. Also, consider attending our June 25th event at the AIDS Memorial. (Please clear this with your supervisor)

When taking action, be clear that maintaining Medicaid, social supports like SNAP, gender affirming care and HIV services are important to you. This moment is too important for us to remain silent when faced with unprecedented attacks.



STOP MEDICAID CUTS

- Protect Trans Health
- Protect HIV Prevention & Care
- Protect Immigrant Health
- Protect Lives

Join Us for a Press Conference & Rally
Wednesday, June 25 | 11:00 AM
NYC Aids Memorial at St. Vincent's Triangle

Bring your voice, signs, and support. Let's send a clear message:
Our Health Is Non-Negotiable

For more information Contact:
Joe Pressley at jpressley@amidacareny.org
Lyndel Urbano at lurbano@amidacareny.org

Speakers list in formation.



New York State Budget and Legislative Session

The New York State legislature is wrapping up its work during the week ending June 16, 2025. Critically, the state budget that was adopted by the legislature does not prepare for federal cuts to programs and services. This is because at the time of passage there was not a clear understanding of either the level of federal cuts or where they would be applied. The expectation is that the Governor will reconvene the legislature for a special legislative session in the fall. During this session, the Governor and Legislature will examine federal cuts and make changes to the state budget to address any expected short falls.

Amida Care is advocating for passage of a bill (A.5480 C/S.4914) that will strengthen legal protections for patients and providers who use gender affirming care. The legislation is expected to pass this session. It will protect patients and providers from out-of-state actors who seek to prosecute providers, patients and their families for accessing this lifesaving care.

Amida Care will continue to advocate with the Governor's office and the legislature for New York to continue to fund gender affirming care, and Medicaid. In our May update, we summarized the different bills we are supporting. We will continue to advocate for this over the summer and until the issues are resolved, likely in a special legislative session in the fall or earlier. We will keep you advised about these developments.

Federal Updates

Funding that supports HIV Prevention and Education Under Threat

CDC Staffing Cuts Since taking office. President Trump's administration has imposed severe staffing cuts within the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other federal agencies. These cuts resulted in severe understaffing in the programs that manage HIV prevention services. The result has been that state grants and contracts for HIV prevention have been delayed or terminated because the staff who managed the grant were laid off.

The good news is that persistent pressure and vocal opposition by the public and Congress demonstrated the disruption and chaos caused by the cuts. As a result, the CDC is backtracking on the layoffs and decided to rehire over 400 staff, many of whom are in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STE and Tuberculosis Prevention. Until the staff are back in place disruption will continue. We will closely monitor this situation.

President Trumps Fiscal Year 26 Budget Cuts. President Trump has proposed severe cuts to HIV prevention and Treatment in his budget proposal. Some proposals include defunding HIV prevention, ending the federal End the HIV Epidemic Initiative and the Minority AIDS Initiative, stopping housing assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA), cutting Ryan White Program supported HIV training for medical professionals, and cutting Ryan White supported Dental Assistance.

Note: The Ryan White program provides last resort support for health care for people living with HIV without other means of paying for health care)

CDC backtracks on layoffs, rehires more than 400 people

Around half of those employees are in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Prevention.

By Sophie Gardner | 06/11/2025 02:43 PM EDT



Dangerous Budget Bill is Pending

The US Senate is deliberating a federal budget bill that you've heard about in the news and that we have reported via our alerts. This 'reconciliation budget bill' already passed the US House of Representatives. The bill that passed the House is dangerous because it makes devastating cuts to Medicaid, health care, food assistance, immigration and many of the programs and services that enable our plan members to be well and thrive.

During Senate deliberations we expect that the bill will undergo close scrutiny to ensure that it complies with the Congressional Review Act, a law that governs the Senate process that allows the majority party in the Senate to pass budget bills without a special majority. As a result, the bill will change and require the House of Representative to vote on it again.

We have an opportunity now to influence the process by taking the actions listed at the end of this policy update. We urge you to act.

It is now more important than ever to contact our U.S. Senators (every state has two) and tell them that you DO NOT want any cuts to Medicaid and to preserve the funding for HIV/AIDS prevention programs!

Recap of why the bill is dangerous

- Final House Bill will cut over \$1 Trillion in funds that support Medicaid, the publicly supported health plans and food assistance. This includes \$793 B in direct health Cuts (Medicaid & ACA)
- In total nearly 11 million Americans will lose their insurance coverage by 2034
- Health related cuts could cost New York over \$13.5 B in federal funds, and over 1.5 million will lose health insurance coverage
- New York Medicaid could be cut by almost \$3.5B and 1.2 million people would lose access to the program

The bill also:

- Imposes work requirements in Medicaid starting December 31, 2025 – this red tape measure would make it harder for people to keep their coverage
- Prohibits federal Medicaid funds for gender-affirming care for all Medicaid recipients and for many who rely on the health exchange for insurance
- Punishes states like NY who use their own funds to cover immigrant health coverage

Act Today: Continue to Call and Send Messages to Your U.S. Senators (each state has two)

(Remember to use your personal devices and social media accounts when taking action. Doing so ensures that your elected officials know that you are a constituent. Don't forget to ask others to participate in this activity!)

1. Tell your U.S. Senators to stop Medicaid, social support and HIV cuts.

Continue to reach out to your United States Senators starting today and through the rest of June. You are encouraged to ask as many others as possible to do the same!

Call 866-426-2631 to contact your two Senators

Amida Care remains focused on stopping cuts to HIV services and Medicaid including the protection of gender affirming care. We are meeting with legislators and working with our community partners to drill home to our legislators that cuts would be devastating.

Take a few minutes to contact your Senators. Let them know that you are paying attention and that you want them to PROTECT Medicaid. The reconciliation bill is now in the hands of the Senators.

Your voice is crucial in amplifying the importance of Medicaid and federal funding for those impacted by addiction and mental health conditions.

Call 866-426-2631 to contact your Senators.

Use this call-in line provided by SEIU and convey these talking points:

- **Tell your Senator: No Cuts to Medicaid.** Whether it's work requirements, eligibility changes, gender affirming care or reduced funding — **a cut is a cut** and will have devastating consequences.
- **Medicaid and Medicare Work Together.** A cut to Medicaid is a cut to Medicare. These programs are interconnected, ensuring older adults and people with disabilities receive the care and support they need.
- **Cuts Have Real Consequences.** Any reduction in Medicaid funding means **fewer services, higher costs, and loss of access** to essential health and long-term care for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers.
- **Millions Rely on Medicaid.** Over **7 million older adults** and **12 million people with Medicare** depend on Medicaid. Slashing the program would cause serious and lasting harm.
- **Make It Personal.** Lawmakers need to hear how Medicaid impacts their constituents. [Use this map](#) to find out how many people in your district rely on Medicaid and share that number with your representatives.

Again, when you've made your calls, encourage allies around you to do the same. We are running out of time to push bills and encourage lawmakers to vote NO to the "Big Beautiful Bill"—and so we have no time to waste. **Join in speaking up, showing out and fighting for affirming care for all.**

Check with your supervisor, and consider attending this event

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AMIDA CARE HEALTH ADVOCACY CARE

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2. Take Specific Action to Protect Access to Gender Affirming Care

Take two minutes to [contact your US Senators](#) and ask them to stop the Medicaid cuts by saying NO to the federal “Big Beautiful Bill.” [Share this link—which comes from our trusted allies at Advocates for Trans Equality \(A4TE\)](#)—with allies around the country.

Additional Information to Inform Your Calls and Messages

We must take urgent and ongoing Action now to counter Federal attacks on the communities we serve and/or are members of!

Attacks that threaten protections for patients and providers and even funding Medicaid have **greatly** picked up in recent weeks. This month, the U.S. Senate is rushing to pass the President’s so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” by **July 4**—a sweeping budget reconciliation package that includes **devastating Medicaid cuts**.

If passed, the bill would:

- **End federal funding for Medicaid coverage of gender-affirming care** for TGNB people of **all ages** (50% of New York’s Medicaid budget comes from federal funds).
- **Prohibit states** from requiring insurance coverage of gender-affirming care as an **Essential Health Benefit**. While New York’s Essential Health Benefit program does not include gender-affirming care (New York mandates this coverage in other ways and thus this provision would not impact New York plans), this provision will impact other states by raising cost-sharing for care (and thus, limiting care utilization).
- Slash essential programs like **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by 30%**. (Many refer to SNAP this as Food Stamps)
- Risk healthcare coverage for **15 million people (ACA and Medicaid)**.
- **Drop coverage** for adults who do not fulfill **bureaucratic work requirements**, including those who are disabled or otherwise unable to work.
- **Cut Medicare and ACA coverage for many immigrants** who are lawfully present in the US.

...and much more—at a time when providers and our members face growing hostility.

What’s at stake for New York?

- New York stands to **lose \$13.5B in funding and it is estimated that 1.5M New Yorkers** would lose insurance coverage entirely. Cuts to Medicaid will deeply impact Callen-Lorde and our patients, more than 50 percent of whom rely on it as a critical lifeline.
- TGNB people—especially low-income People of Color and rural trans folks—will bear the brunt of the harmful provisions limiting access to gender-affirming care. Nearly **276,000 TGNB adults (or approximately 21% of all TGNB adults in the US)** rely on Medicaid.

We need you to help to **FIGHT BACK NOW** and protect New York’s vulnerable communities.

Call 866-426-2631 to contact your Senators.

Useful Information and Links

As Medicaid continues to be our utmost important topic during the federal budget process, we wanted to share the below useful information from the American Hospital Association ([AHA](#)) regarding Medicaid. We also encourage you all to visit their Advocacy resource site [here](#).

- [Fact Sheet: Medicaid](#)
- [State Infographics – What's at Stake: Medicaid covers the people you know](#)
- [Infographic: 4 Things You Should Know About Medicaid Provider Taxes and Payments](#)

President Trump released the FY26 budget request, the first of his second term, on May 30, 2025. The FY 2026 request marks a significant change in approach for domestic HIV programs and funding levels. It eliminates or transforms several core programs. Below is an overview of these changes. Read the full KFF analysis [here](#).

- Funding for core HIV prevention programs at the CDC is eliminated in the budget request and funding previously provided to the CDC for EHE activities (\$220 million) is moved to Administration for a Healthy America (AHA).
- The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the nation's safety net for HIV care and treatment (formerly housed at HRSA, now at AHA), receives \$2.5 billion in the FY26 request, a \$74 million (3%) decrease over the FY25 enacted level.
- The FY26 budget request includes \$157 million in HIV funding for the Health Center Program (formerly housed at HRSA, now at AHA), all of which is for the EHE initiative, and is the same amount as the FY25 level.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPWA Program is eliminated in the budget. In FY25, HOPWA was funded at \$505 million.
- Minority AIDS Initiative. Funding that has been provided for MAI activities at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), aimed at "improving the health of people of color who have or are at risk for HIV" is eliminated in the proposal.

Other Updates

Senator Chuck Schumer Sends letter to RFK Jr. in response to HHS cuts and layoffs

On June 3, 2025, NYS Senator and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer sent a letter to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., expressing his concerns regarding the many layoffs and cuts to HHS, affecting also the agencies under the HHS umbrella. Read the full letter [here](#).

Trump Administration Ends Program Critical to Search for an H.I.V. Vaccine

The Trump administration has dealt a sharp blow to work on H.I.V. vaccines, terminating a \$258 million program whose work was instrumental to the search for a vaccine, “*The consortia for H.I.V./AIDS vaccine development and immunology*”. The program’s elimination is the latest in a series of cuts to H.I.V.-related initiatives, and to prevention of the disease. Separately, the N.I.H. also paused funding for a clinical trial of an H.I.V. vaccine made by Moderna. The cuts will derail hard-won progress against H.I.V. over the past few decades, public health experts said. This week, the administration also withheld funds that were due to states and territories for H.I.V. prevention work.

The number of new H.I.V. infections had been declining steadily since 2010. Still, in 2023, the World Health Organization reported 1.3 million new cases, including about 120,000 children.

CMS says it will increase oversight on states misusing Medicaid funds to care for undocumented immigrants

On May 27, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it will increase the oversight of states to prevent the misuse of federal Medicaid funding to cover health care for individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status. CMS said the effort would involve focused evaluations of select state Medicaid spending reports (CMS-64 form submissions); in-depth reviews of select states’ financial management systems; and assessing existing eligibility rules and policies to close loopholes and strengthen enforcement. CMS also urged all states to immediately examine and update internal controls, eligibility systems and cost allocation policies to ensure full compliance with federal law. The agency said any improper spending on noncitizens will be subject to recoupment of federal funding. Read the announcement [here](#).

Polls and politics look grim for One Big Beautiful Bill

The last time congressional Republicans tried to make significant cuts to healthcare in 2017, it turned out to be highly unpopular. A new poll and recent events suggest they are trudging down the same path as they clamor to deliver President Donald Trump his tax cuts.

Trump and the GOP majority in Congress are trying to pass the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 to enact \$3.7 trillion in tax cuts, paid for in part by more than \$1 trillion in healthcare cuts, predominantly from Medicaid. They aim to finish their work by July 4. Most Americans believe the tax-and-spending-cuts measure would cause people to lose health coverage, negatively affect healthcare providers, and make it harder for their families to get and afford care, according to survey results the nonpartisan health policy research institution KFF published Friday. The organization conducted the poll from May 5-26. Read the full article [here](#).

[RFK Jr. to fire all members of the CDC's vaccine advisory committee](#)

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. plans to fire all 17 members of the panel that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccines, he said Monday June 9.

“The committee has been plagued with persistent conflicts of interest and has become little more than a rubber stamp for any vaccine,” Kennedy wrote in an opinion piece published in The Wall Street Journal. He wrote that the decision is meant to restore faith in vaccines. Read full article [here](#).

[Judge Blocks ICE Plan to Open Rikers Office Indefinitely](#)

A state judge on Friday June 13, indefinitely blocked Mayor Eric Adams from letting federal immigration authorities open an office at the Rikers Island jail complex in New York City, a priority for the Trump administration as it seeks to expand its immigration crackdown.

The City Council had sued the Adams administration on April 15 in an effort to halt the return of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to Rikers Island. The Council argued that letting ICE into the city's largest jail facilities, a decade after the agency was banned from Rikers, would lead to mass deportations.

Friday's action by Justice Mary Rosado of State Supreme Court in Manhattan represented the third time she had sided with the City Council. Read the full article [here](#).

Advocacy Actions - Presentations, Rallies and Other Engagement

[National Trans Visibility March in Washington D.C.](#)

Along with Carlos and Zyrie, Lyndel went to Washington D.C. from June 4 – 6 for the National Trans visibility March. Lyndel presented at the Policy and Safety Summit on Thursday June 5. Lyndel also participated in the Empowerment Day workshops. On Friday evening both Zyrie and Lyndel participated in the Labor of Love awards ceremony.

[Governor Kathy Hochul's LGBTQ Reception in Albany](#)

On Tuesday June 10, Joe Pressley went to Governor Hochul's LGBTQ reception at the Governor's Mansion in Albany to represent Amida Care. Many leaders from both LGBTQ organization and New York State legislature were present.



Other Topics of Note

DOJ investigates California after state bans trans athlete to appease president's transphobic orders

California issued a partial ban on trans athletes after the president threatened to cut federal funding over a single trans long jumper. On Wednesday May 28, the DOJ announced that it had sent legal notices to California Attorney General Rob Bonta (D), state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), which oversees the state's high school sports, and the Jurupa Unified School District, where a 16-year-old trans track-and-field athlete rose to become a state long jump finalist. The DOJ noted that it filed a statement of interest in support of a federal court lawsuit filed by two cis female high school athletes who claim that trans athletes stole athletic opportunities from them and other girls by being allowed to compete in their schools' cross-country running teams. Read the full article [here](#).

Pete Hegseth Orders Navy to Strip Name of Gay Rights Icon Harvey Milk from Ship

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the Navy to take the rare step of renaming a ship, the USNS Harvey Milk, which bears the name of a gay rights icon, documents and sources show. The renaming memo notes that the renaming was being done so that there is "alignment with the president's and Secretary of Defense objectives and Secretary of the Navy priorities of reestablishing the warrior culture," apparently referencing President Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth and John Phelan. Read the full article [here](#).

Tim Walz shames Dems who have abandoned trans people: "We need to be the party of human dignity."

As the Democratic party argues over whether standing up for trans people is bad for their brand, Minnesota Gov. and former vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz (D) has held strong in his support for the community.

Recently, during an impassioned speech at the annual California Democratic Convention Governor Walz made his stance perfectly clear: "I'm just going to say it, shame on any of us who throws a trans child under the bus for thinking they're going to get elected," he said. Read the full article [here](#).

Round Up

We know that these times are incredibly stressful, and we all face much uncertainty due to the cuts which are proposed in the federal budget to social programs, but the advocacy efforts that have been done have made a difference to the budget and have shifted a lot of legislators.

We need to remain vigilant and not let up. We need to speak up and let our legislators know that we do NOT accept ANY cuts to Medicaid and Medicare!

Sincerely,

Joe Pressley, Lyndel Urbano & Casper Christiansen