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HIV Care Providers Urge Schumer to Protect Medicaid and Affordable Health Coverage

Letter signed by 35 organizations calls for immediate Senate action to extend ACA subsidies and protect care for people living with HIV

Groups warn that Federal cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act will dramatically weaken NY's health care infrastructure

NEW YORK, NY (January xx, 2026) — Leading HIV service providers and community-based organizations serving low-income New Yorkers living with HIV and other chronic health conditions across New York State are calling on Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer to take immediate steps to protect health care access and sustain efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

In a joint letter, the groups urge Senator Schumer to exercise “unwavering bold leadership” to protect health care access by advancing Senate passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidy extension and continuing to defend Medicaid from further cuts. The letter signatories include: Acacia Network; Albany Damien Center; Alliance for Positive Change; Amida Care; Apicha Community Health Center; Argus Community Inc.; Betances Health Center; Bridging Access to Care; Callen-Lorde Community Health Center; Community Health Action of Staten Island; Community Health Care Association of New York State; Community Healthcare Network; Diaspora Community Services; EngageWell IPA; Exponents; GMHC; Harlem United; Housing Works; Iris House, Inc.; Latino Commission on AIDS; Legal Action Center; MetroPlusHealth Plan, Inc.; National Black Leadership Commission on Health; NEW Pride Agenda; New York Transgender Advocacy Group (NYTAG); Rockland County Pride Center; St. Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction; Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC; Sun River Health; The Ali Forney Center; Truth Pharm, Inc.; VillageCare, and VNS Health.

The letter comes as New Yorkers begin to grapple with rapidly increasing health care premiums. Last year’s passage of HR1, a federal budget reconciliation bill approved by the House of Representatives with the support of seven members of New York’s congressional delegation, enacted sweeping cuts to Medicaid and other health programs while allowing enhanced ACA premium tax credits to expire. These moves shift costs onto states, providers, and patients, and threaten health coverage for millions of Americans. The law will dramatically weaken New York’s health care infrastructure and undermine access to care for people living with HIV and other chronic conditions.

“These cuts aren’t abstract – they are deliberate choices that put lives at risk,” said **Joe Pressley, Vice President of Public Policy and Government Relations at Amida Care.**

“When Congress cuts Medicaid and lets ACA subsidies expire, it is choosing to make health

care unaffordable for people living with HIV, LGBTQIA+ communities, people of color, immigrants, and working and low-income folks across the country. Medicaid is the backbone of HIV care and prevention, and weakening it now – as HIV infections rise again – is reckless and unacceptable. We are calling on Senator Schumer to use his leadership to protect coverage, protect care, and protect the progress New York has made toward ending the HIV epidemic.”

The letter states that:

- The “**timely Senate passage**” of the House bill extending ACA advanced premium tax credits for three years “**is essential**,” particularly since Congress has allowed enhanced subsidies to expire while enacting damaging Medicaid cuts through HR1.
- HR1 “**will weaken the entire health care and economic system we all rely on**,” cutting more than **\$13.5 billion** from New York State’s health care system, eliminating coverage for over **1.5 million New Yorkers**, and resulting in the loss of an estimated **65,000 jobs** at hospitals and community health centers.
- Medicaid is “**critical for New York’s ongoing effort to End the HIV epidemic**.”
- Medicaid is the largest payer of HIV care, covering **40 percent of people living with HIV**, and **85 percent of people living with HIV will rely on Medicaid at some point in their lives**. Meanwhile, **new HIV infections have increased for the third year in a row**—an unacceptable trend given that effective HIV treatment and prevention medications are widely available if people can afford them.
- Medicaid and the ACA “are key systems which help make health affordable for more Americans,” supporting people across racial, economic, and generational lines while making it possible to manage chronic illness, sustain HIV prevention and treatment, and address the opioid epidemic.

ABOUT AMIDA CARE

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit Medicaid health plan in New York City and an expert in HIV, sexual health, and gender-affirming care. It provides comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including people living with HIV, people of transgender experience, and people experiencing homelessness. Amida Care is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.