**ACTION ALERT:** We need your help!  The Senate and Assembly passed bill A7889A/ S4486B this past legislative session and we now need Governor Hochul to sign it into law. This bill would provide protections for Medicaid and human service providers, as well as consumers related to Medicaid audits performed by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG).  Thus far, 47 organizations across the state are in support of the bill and are urging Governor Hochul to sign it. We need to keep up the pressure.

Should the Governor veto this bill, health, behavioral health, and human service providers will continue to be subject to unfair audit practices, which could lead to a reduction or discontinuance of services. In a time when we are faced with significant worker shortages; the continued challenges and effects from the COVID-19 pandemic; and worsening opioid, suicide, and gun violence epidemics – we cannot afford to lose any more providers or services.

We are asking that you email (sample below) Governor Hochul’s office and ask her to sign this bill. We also ask that you consider promoting this issue on social media (samples below). By working together, we can ensure that Medicaid audits are fair and transparent and no longer threaten our ability to provide services to the people who need us most.

**Suggested email:**

Dear Governor Hochul (legislative.secretary@exec.ny.gov)

I am writing to urge your approval of **A7889A (Gottfried)/ S4486B(Harckham),** which would provide protections for Medicaid and human service providers, as well as consumers related to Medicaid audits performed by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG).

The current auditing practices are unfair to providers and have led some to reduce or discontinue their services. In the vast majority of these instances, there is no fraud, waste, or wrongdoing. These infractions are merely administrative errors, or other minor oversights, and do not violate the fiscal integrity of the Medicaid program or diminish the quality of care, yet often result in disproportionate penalties and takebacks.

As you know, our healthcare system is in a very fragile state. We are faced with significant health, behavioral health, and human service worker shortages; the continued challenges and effects from the COVID-19 pandemic; and worsening opioid, suicide, and gun violence epidemics. As a state, we should be taking all necessary steps to invest in and strengthen our system of care, not weakening it with unfair and excessive auditing practices.

Our job as health care providers is to offer effective and efficient services in a manner that is consistent with all current laws and regulations. OMIG’s job is to audit programs for compliance and root out fraud and abuse. However, these audits should be conducted in a fair and transparent manner and should not impact a provider’s ability to serve consumers.

At X organization, we believe that this legislation is necessary to ensure a fair and balanced audit process. [IF YOU CAN, PROVIDE A BRIEF NOTE/EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS WOULD HELP YOU/YOUR ORGANIZATION.]

**We therefore strongly support A.7889-A/S.4486-B and urge you to sign it as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,

**Social Media:** Twitter only allows 280 characters (including spaces).

Providers & consumers across NYS health + behavioral health + human services fields call on @GovKathyHochul to sign A7889A/S4486B. This bill protect Medicaid providers/consumers related to audits performed by OMIG. It’s time for fairness + balance in the Medicaid audit program.

A7889A/S4486B provides protections for providers/consumers related to OMIG audits. Health + behavioral health + human services needs are at peak demand. Excessive audits are leading to the reduction or discontinuation of services. @GovKathyHochul can help by signing the bill now!

More than 3 dozen organizations across the state agree: it’s time for @GovKathyHochul to sign A7889A/S4486B and bring fairness and transparency to Medicaid audits conducted by OMIG. Medicaid & human service providers, as well as consumers deserve these protections.

NY has a health, behavioral health & human service worker shortages + the effects of the Pandemic +  worsening opioid, suicide & gun violence epidemics. NY must strengthen its care system, not weaken it with unfair Medicaid auditing practices. @GovKathyHochul sign A7889A/ S4486B!