



"The New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, our board of directors and 165 member agencies are deeply disappointed by the recent passage of President Trump's draconian budget bill (H.R. 1) that will have a devastating impact on the progress New York State has made over several decades to ensure New Yorkers have access to all types of healthcare including mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction services."

"H.R. 1 represents a massive transfer of financial wealth to the richest Americans while it simultaneously shifts major costs from the federal government to individual states and decimates the healthcare safety net. It is estimated that New York State will lose over \$10 billion in federal funding that currently supports coverage for eligible people and maintains an accessible health care delivery system. Over the next decade, the bill cuts federal Medicaid spending by over \$1 trillion, Medicare by \$500 billion, and diminishes Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium subsidies. Coverage losses will result in higher out-of-pocket costs, more medical debt, and more evictions as individuals and families struggle to keep up with the cost of healthcare, and while New Yorkers without coverage forgo appointments that will ultimately drive-up costs for more acute services further down the line and greatly increase uncompensated care."

"All 7 members of the NYS delegation in the House Majority voted in favor of the bill. Nick LaLota, Andrew Garbarino, Nicole Malliotakis, Mike Lawler, Elise Stefanik, Nick Langworthy, and Claudia Tenney said 'yes' to an inhumane bill despite knowing how truly devastating it will be for their constituents, who sent them to Washington in good faith. Every New Yorker who disagrees with their actions should call their Republican member of Congress immediately to express their disapproval and outrage at their callous lack of courage and willingness to betray those who sent them to Washington D.C. to make their lives better. This enacted bill will do just the opposite."

"As state leaders consider next steps, the New York State Council will work with them while we implement a smart and strategic advocacy campaign designed to protect New Yorkers with significant substance use and mental health challenges, and the community-based providers who serve them 365 days/year. If budgets are moral documents that convey the ideals and values of a society, we must ensure that funding decisions made by NYS lawmakers in the weeks and months ahead do not result in an increase in overdose, suicide and other deaths of despair that often result from coverage losses and delays in accessing life-saving care."

"Community-based mental health and substance use disorder agencies are on the ground in local communities across New York to provide a safety net for vulnerable New Yorkers to include accessible healthcare, affordable housing, nutrition and other basic necessities of life so they can recover, lead productive lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities. These critical services must be protected."

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