

**A10926 (Paulin)**

**S9589 (Rivera)**

## **Memorandum in Support**

### **Protect the Health Coverage of 500,000 New Yorkers**

The New York State Nurses Association represents more than 44,000 registered nurses for collective bargaining and is a leading advocate for high-quality universal health coverage for all regardless of ability to pay.

The Trump administration's 2025 OBBBA (HR1) slashed funding for Medicaid and other health care programs by almost \$1 trillion to pay for tax cuts for corporations, capital investors, and the ultra-wealthy. HR1 also targeted New York's Essential Plan by prohibiting coverage for low- and moderate-income people making between 200% and 250% of the federal poverty level. As a result, almost 500,000 people making between \$31,000-\$39,000 people who are covered by the Essential Plan will lose their health coverage beginning on July 1, 2026.

The proposed legislation would continue coverage for these New Yorkers by providing subsidies for them to purchase similar coverage on the ACA exchange. The Executive claims that providing coverage for this population would cost more than \$3.5 billion a year and that the state does not have the fiscal capacity to preserve their coverage. The state also argues that these low-income working people can simply get on their employers' health plans or buy their own coverage on the exchanges.

First, we note that preserving coverage for these people will only cost \$393 million in FY2027, \$639 million in FY2028 and \$675 million in FY2029. The proposed executive budget included \$2.4 billion in contingency funding to continue to cover the 1.2 million people who make less than 200% of the FPL and will remain in the Essential Plan in case the federal government denied New York's application to convert the Essential Plan back to a Section 1331 Basic Health Program. Now that the federal government has approved the application, New York can continue the Essential Plan coverage for those below the 200% threshold and can now access about \$9 billion in accumulated Section 1331 reserves to support their coverage.

NYSNA opposes any loss of current coverage resulting from the OBBBA and urges the legislature to use some of the already budgeted contingency funding to preserve coverage for the 500,000 New Yorkers who are being thrown off the Essential Plan by the Trump administration. Contrary to the assertions of the Executive, these low-wage working people will not be able to get employer coverage and will not be able to afford to buy insurance on the ACA exchanges.

**NYSNA urges the legislature to pass A10926/S9589 and keep these New Yorkers insured.**