
Health Care For All New York Spring Meeting May 17, 2021



Agenda

2:00-2:15	Welcome and Introductions
2:15-2:30	Budget session recap <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bob Cohen
2:30 – 3:00	HCFANY 2021 Post-Budget Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda Dunker
3:00 – 3:15	Take Action on Medical Debt! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Hannay
3:15 – 3:30	Wrap Up and Closing

NYS Budget

Health Care Budget Wins

- Eliminated all Essential Plan premiums, including vision and dental premiums, and vision and dental cost-sharing – starts June 1
- Protected Medicaid from across-the-board cuts and preserved access to Indigent Care Pool for public hospitals
- Stopped further cuts to Article VI public health programs in NYC
- Extended post-partum coverage for some women enrolled in Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months. Still working out the details. Some immigrants, particularly undocumented, excluded from this coverage expansion.

Unfinished Health Care Budget Agenda Items

- Coverage 4 All bills: coverage expansions for immigrants, even smaller expansion for people with COVID-19
- A repeal of the Medicaid spending cap (extended for 1 year)
- Patient Medical Debt Protection Act – interest rate cap had been proposed in Executive Budget but didn't make it to final budget

Post-budget HCFANY Policy Agenda

Priorities for rest of session:

- Pass the New York Health Act (A6058/S5474)
- Allow all New Yorkers with COVID-19 to enroll in the Essential Plan regardless of immigration status (S2549/A1585)
- Pass certificate of need health equity assessment bill (S1451a/A191a)
- Target Indigent Care Pool funding to Essential Safety Net Hospitals (S5954/A6883)
- **Medical debt protections:**
 - **Reduce the medical interest rate from 9% to federal funds rate (S3057A/A1538A)**
 - Prohibit wage garnishment/liens for medical debt (S6522/A7363)
 - Pass the Patient Medical Debt Protection Act (S2521A/A3470A)

The New York Health Act

- What is it?
 - Universal coverage for everyone who lives in NY regardless of immigration, income, health or other status. Also includes those who work full-time in NY but live out-of-state.
 - The NY Health Act would be self financed through progressive taxes on income.

Current goal: Pass A6058/S5474

- Call Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins TODAY and ask her to put NYHA on the Health Committee agenda
(518)455-2585 & (518)455-2715
- Sign up to phonebank or take other actions
www.nyhcampaign.org



Coverage4All

- Many immigrants are excluded from health coverage because of their immigration status: New York cannot receive federal funding to cover them
- New York should pass **S1572/A880** so that ALL low-income undocumented adults can enroll in the Essential Plan with state funds
- 22 Assembly co-sponsors and 19 Senate co-sponsors
- Next steps:
 - Assembly Health Committee
 - Senate Health Committee



You can use #Coverage4All's tool to contact your legislators and tell them immigrant New Yorkers need the same health coverage as everyone else:

<https://www.coverage4all.info/contact-your-legislator>

Adding health equity assessments to CON applications

The NYS DOH and Public Health and Health Planning Council approve hospitals' plans to expand, merge, downsize or close through the Certificate of Need (CON) process – but it doesn't allow the community input needed to make sure those decisions benefit ALL New Yorkers:

- S1451a/A191a Requires Health Equity Assessment to reveal the impact of a proposed transaction on medically-underserved New Yorkers (Medicaid, uninsured, BIPOC, LBGTQ, disabled)
- S1451a Health Equity CON bill passed in the Senate 5/10
- Next step: Assembly sponsors have to convince leadership to bring it up for a vote. Help us raise the visibility of this issue through social media and in meetings with legislators!



Targeting ICP to Enhanced Safety Net Hospitals

NY currently distributes Indigent Care Pool (ICP) to virtually all hospitals in NYS, not just hospitals that serve disproportionate share of uninsured and Medicaid patients

S5954/A6883 targets ICP to Enhanced and Qualified Safety Net Hospitals

Next steps:

- Passed Assembly Health Committee, need vote in Assembly Ways and Means and then entire Assembly
- Need vote in Senate Health Committee, Finance Committee, and Rules Committee before entire Senate

Medical debt: reducing interest rate on medical debt

- Hospitals have sued over 50,000 New Yorkers and 9% interest can add thousands of dollars to those judgments
- S3057A/A1538A reduces the medical interest rate from 9% to federal funds rate
- Next steps:
 - S3057A has passed the Judiciary committee and is headed to the Senate floor
 - A1538A is waiting in the Assembly Codes committee for a vote

Patient Medical Debt Protection Act (S2521A/A3470A)

The Patient Medical Debt Protection Act would:

- Standardize financial assistance applications and appeals processes so everyone gets the help they are eligible for
- Hold consumer harmless in surprise bill cases caused by misinformation
- Ban on facility fees when insurance is not covering them
- Standardize financial liability forms
- Itemized and timely medical bills

Next steps:

- Senate: 29 co-sponsors, needs to come up for a vote in the Health Committee
- Assembly: 48 co-sponsors, passed Health and Codes Committees and now has to pass Ways and Means

Prohibit wage garnishments and liens for medical debt

- Prohibit wage garnishment/property liens on your primary home for medical debt (S6522/A7363)
- Next steps:
 - Pass out of Senate Judiciary Committee
 - Pass out of Assembly Codes Committee

Medical Debt Action Steps

1. [Add your organization](#) to the End Medical Debt [sign on letter](#)
 2. Join the campaign through social media:
 - Follow Health Care For All New York on social media - @HCFANY (Twitter and Facebook)
 - Follow We The Patients on social media - @WeThePatientsNY (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok)
 - Join our monthly Social Media Work Group trainings! Drop your email into the chat box or email Emily Dore at edore@cssny.org.
 3. Share your stories about medical debt
 - Fill out the story form on HCFANY's website or email hcfany@cssny.org
 4. Join HCFANY's advocacy meetings to explain to legislators why we need medical debt reform – we'd love your support!
-