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# Health Care For All New York Winter Meeting February 13, 2024

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# Agenda

10:00AM	Welcome and agenda review
10:00-10:30	Keynote Amy Paulin, Chair Assembly Health Committee
10:30 -11:00	HCFANY's Policy Agenda Panel HCFANY Steering Committee Members
11:00 -11:15	Consumer Health Champion Awards Danielle Holahan, Executive Director, NYSOH Sonia Sekhar, Deputy Director, NYSOH
	Wrap Up and Closing

# HCFANY

## 2024 Policy Agenda



# Wins & Losses



## 2023 Wins

- **Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act** banning reporting of medical debt on consumers' credit reports
- **Uniform Hospital Financial Assistance Application**
- **Essential Plan**
  - Included DACA recipients
  - Eliminated premiums

## 2023 Losses

- **Coverage4All**
- **Community Health Advocates** funding
  - Assembly cut by \$738,000

# End Medical Debt

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**Ounce of Prevention Act (S1366B|A8170A):** Make it easier for patients to find out about, apply for, and receive hospital financial assistance.

- Offer payment plans to people up to 600% of FPL, using Medicaid rates
- Time limit payments at 3 or 5 years, based on consumer's income
- Require all NFP and government hospitals to offer HFA
- Ban lawsuits against patients < 400% of FPL
- Cap payments at 5% of a family's gross income

**Stop SUNY Suing (A8170|S7778):** The 5 State-run hospitals have sued 16,700 patients since 2019.

- Research shows they are suing low-income people of color, even people in jail without offering financial assistance
- They get over \$530 million annually in DSH funds for their uncompensated care costs

# Coverage Improvements

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## Improve health plan benefit design

- Adopt Governor Hochul’s proposal to ban cost-sharing for **insulin**
  - 2.6 million NYers have diabetes
  - Research shows co-pays hurts RX adherence
- Adopt Governor Hochul’s proposal to spend \$315 million of 1332 Waiver Surplus to **improve cost-sharing** for NYSOH plan (\$1.3b over 5 years)

**Pass the NY Health Act** to ensure that every New Yorker has access to coverage

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# Coverage4All

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**Coverage4All (S2237B|A3020B) would include low-income immigrants who are ineligible for the Essential Plan coverage because of their status:**

- **Providing health coverage is the right thing to do:**
  - Improves everyone’s health care & the over healthcare system
- **Fiscal prudence:**
  - FREE to NY – the feds pay for it!
  - There’s enough 1332 surplus (\$7.1 billion) to pay for immigrant coverage (\$4.9 billion)
  - Saves over \$400 million annually in state Emergency Medicaid
- **Other States cover immigrants:** Colorado, Washington (§1332), California, Minnesota & Illinois (Medicaid)

# Medicaid Improvements

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## **Kids continuous coverage (A8146|S7747)**

- Adopt the Governor Hochul’s budget which proposes to provide continuous coverage to kids from birth up to age 6

## **Asset test (A5940A|S4881A)**

- People over 65 or who have disabilities are the only ones who face an asset test
  - Year 1: Change it to \$300,000
  - Out years: It would be eliminated



# Consumer Assistance

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## Community Health Advocates:

- Last year CHA funding was cut by the Assembly (\$438 net)
- Executive budget maintains at \$3.5 million
- Calling on Legislature to maintain \$2 million additional funding (\$1 million from each house)

## Navigators:

- New York should increase Navigator funding from \$27.2 million to \$38 million to reflect ten years without COLAs and fund outreach (\$5 million)

# How You Can Get Involved

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## Coverage4All

- Sign the Coverage4All petition - [bit.ly/Coverage4AllNow](http://bit.ly/Coverage4AllNow)
- Ask your legislators to include C4A in the one house bills

## End Medical Debt

- Sign the organizational sign-on letter
- Participate in #medicaldebtmonday on social media

## Community Voices for Health Systems Accountability

- Join bi-weekly meeting
- Hospital closing bill (to come!)

**For more information email [hcfany@cssny.org](mailto:hcfany@cssny.org)**

