

February 24, 2025

Representative Nicole Malliotakis

United States House of Representatives  
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Dear Representative Malliotakis,

We are writing to you as a coalition of organizations representing over 5,000 local health care and public health professionals, many of whom live in, work in, and/or serve patients from your Congressional district, to voice our strong opposition to any cuts to the Medicaid program that might be included in upcoming budget packages or any other proposed legislation. As you know, the Medicaid program is a lifeline for millions of Americans, including many individuals and families in your district who rely on it for essential health care services.

Medicaid plays a critical role in providing care to low-income children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities. The program provides health care coverage for an estimated 27% of all people and 36% of children in New York's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.<sup>1</sup> In addition, amidst mental health and drug overdose crises that have hit your district particularly hard, Medicaid provides the lion's share of funding for mental health and addiction treatment services, especially for those struggling with the most serious mental illnesses and severe substance use disorders. Cutting funding to this program would have devastating consequences for those who are already struggling to access the care they need. It would lead to increased health disparities, poorer health outcomes, and higher health care costs in the long run.

In your district, many residents depend on Medicaid for preventative care, treatment of chronic conditions including behavioral health conditions, nursing home care, and crucial support services. Reducing Medicaid funding will disproportionately affect our most vulnerable neighbors, including children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. While the recently proposed \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid would be particularly devastating to your constituents, any lesser amount of cuts would still cause profound harm to the population you represent. For

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-work-requirements-could-put-36-million-people-at-risk-of-losing-health>

instance, imposing Medicaid work requirements would put an estimated 138,000 adults at risk of losing health coverage in your district.<sup>1</sup>

As if the health implications alone of Medicaid cuts were not serious enough, significant cuts to the Medicaid program would put numerous well-paying jobs at risk in your district. People working in hospitals, outpatient medical clinics, behavioral health programs, home health care agencies, and nursing home facilities in Brooklyn and Staten Island would all be at risk of layoffs.

We urge you to consider the profound impact that these proposed cuts would have on the health and economic well-being of your constituents, and we in fact know that you have already considered these risks in a letter to House Speaker Johnson that you co-signed along with other Republican members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, on February 19, 2025. We respectfully ask that you oppose any legislation that aims to reduce Medicaid funding and instead advocate for measures that strengthen and expand access to health care for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We will be watching to see whether you will stand up for your constituents in protecting Medicaid and the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Brooklyn Psychiatric Society

Children's Defense Fund – New York

Commission on the Public's Health System

Housing Works

New York City Against Segregated Healthcare

New York County Psychiatric Society

New York Doctors Coalition

New York Immigrant Coalition

New York Society of Addiction Medicine

New York State Adult Day Services

Physicians for a National Health Program – New York Metro Chapter

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