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**1199SEIU JOINS COALITION TO CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPEAL MEDICAID DRUG CARVE-OUT**

*Community Health Centers Warn that Carve Out Changes Will Impact Vaccine Distribution for Vulnerable New Yorkers*

*Carve Out Changes Will Decimate Services for Thousands of Medically Underserved, Low-Income New Yorkers*

**NEW YORK** – 1199SEIU today joined dozens of community health groups to call on the Department of Health to repeal the disastrous Medicaid drug carve-out. The Save NY's Safety Net coalition is demanding that Albany reverse the drug carve-out and resulting changes to the 340B drug discount program that will decimate essential services for medically underserved and low-income New Yorkers who have been impacted the most by the pandemic.

“Each year, Callen Lorde reaches thousands of patients who would otherwise have nowhere to receive care. I believe with all my heart we improve the health and lives of our patients who receive essential services including housing and behavioral health. All of this is at risk if we lose the income we receive from the 340b program,” said **Danielle Pickering, RN at Callen Lorde Community Health Center and a 1199SEIU member.**

Community health groups are also warning that changes to the 340B drug discount program will impact their ability to educate vulnerable New Yorkers about the COVID-19 vaccine, build trust in the vaccine, and vaccinate New Yorkers from minority communities.

“The programs 340B helps fund are the same programs that have helped community health centers forge relationships with communities that are justifiably skeptical of the Covid vaccine. The State should be relying on those relationships to build vaccine confidence in Black and Brown communities, not undermining them,” said **Rose Duhan, CHCANYS president and CEO.** “Changing the 340B program will destroy those

programs and relationships at a time when they are most needed. Plus it will cost providers hundreds of millions of dollars while doing nothing to save taxpayer money. We are begging the state: abandon this ill-conceived plan. #DontCutTheNet!”

The state’s plan to carve-out Medicaid prescription drugs will devastate 340B drug discount program providers. The 340B program allows safety net providers to purchase deeply discounted drugs and use the savings to provide essential services from housing aid to food assistance for low-income New Yorkers. Albany’s plan is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2021 and will cause widespread and disastrous consequences statewide.

Coalition members include:

- African Services Committee
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Albany Damien Center
- Alliance for Positive Change
- Bridging Access to Care
- Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
- CHCANYS
- Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates (COMPA)
- Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition
- Community Health Initiatives
- Community Healthcare Network
- Damian Family Care Centers
- Drug Policy Alliance
- EngageWell IPA
- Evergreen Health Services
- Finger Lakes Community Health
- Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC)
- Harlem United
- Hispanic Health Network
- Housing Works
- iHealth
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- Legal Action Center
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York #Insulin4All
- NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
- Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
- Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
- RWC-340B
- Ryan Health
- Sun River Health
- The Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers of New York State
- The Institute for Family Health

- The LGBT Community Center
- The Mental Health Association in New York State
- The National Working Positive Coalition
- Therapeutic Communities Association of New York (TCANY)
- TOUCH
- Treatment Action Group
- Trillium
- VIP Community Services

This comes on the heels of widespread opposition to the changes, and widespread agreement on the horrendous effects that will result if the changes are not reversed. So far:

- Six hospital groups representing facilities across the state have written to the Department of Health saying, **“If allowed to stand, this massive policy and operational shift will jeopardize the solvency of critical healthcare services and programs for vulnerable and low-income populations...”**
- Over 100 community-based healthcare and support groups have written to the Department of Health saying, **“This new policy will provide little to no benefit to the state and will devastate patients and the safety net providers they rely on for care.”** Read it [here](#).
- [A report](#) by Menges Group found that the results of the change will have drastic effects on communities and will actually cost the state over a \$1 billion over the next 5 years.

For more information on the coalition and the campaign, visit [www.savenysafetynet.com](http://www.savenysafetynet.com).

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### **About Save NY’s Safety Net: 340B Saves Lives**

Save New York’s Safety Net: 340B Saves Lives is a statewide coalition of community health clinics and community-based organizations that is committed to serving vulnerable New Yorkers across the state, ending the epidemic and saving the 340B drug discount program.