



Please REJECT the Governor’s proposal to cut funding for public health programs by 20% and combine appropriations!

As organizations committed to encouraging healthier lifestyles, reducing the risks associated with chronic diseases, providing continuing care through enriched housing programs, promoting primary and maternal and child health care, and caring for disabled children and adults, we ask the New York Senate and Assembly to **REJECT the Governor’s 2018-19 State Budget proposal** to cut programmatic funding by at least 20% (an additional \$9M) for a second year in a row and combine legislative appropriations for many important health programs in a pooled appropriation.

Under this proposal, important health programs benefitting millions of New Yorkers are threatened with cuts. Included in this consolidation are programs that reduce the morbidity and mortality of chronic diseases, including: funding for the state’s Asthma Program, Hypertension Funding, and Obesity and Diabetes Programs. The cuts also target maternal and child health programs, rural Health Networks, workforce programs, enriched housing programs serving elderly and disabled individuals, Area Health Education Centers which promote primary care and public health careers to students in underserved communities, the Physically Handicapped Children’s program, and community-based programs focused on improving health outcomes.

Many of these programs, already critically underfunded, were cut in the previous budget by at least 20%. Another cut would have drastic impacts for the health of New Yorkers. As organizations united to promote and protect the health of communities, we oppose cuts to public health funding in any form.

As a legislator, you know the importance of encouraging healthier lifestyles and supporting prevention and screening to reduce risks of chronic diseases. Chronic diseases—such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and asthma -- are the leading causes of disability and death in New York State. More than 40% of New York adults suffer from a chronic disease and six out of every 10 deaths in New York State are caused by one of these diseases. ***New Yorkers cannot afford to live without these vital health programs.*** Moreover, many of these programs disproportionately affect low income populations. Removing access to vital preventative health services for these communities perpetuates these health disparities. This is unjust.

Many of these state health interventions being considered for consolidation exist to prevent, reduce, or delay much of the chronic disease burden. Others exist to improve the health and wellbeing of New York's mothers and children. Preventing chronic diseases and protecting and promoting the health of pregnant women and babies are smart investments for New York State. Enriched housing programs provide an environment for seniors to stay mobile, active, safe and healthy.

There are many other sources for revenue for the state of New York, the budget shortfall should not be resolved on the back of our essential public health infrastructure, primary care to underserved populations, and child and elderly residents of the State.

Our respective organizations each ask for you to work to retain the separate appropriations for the above programs and reject the Governor's proposed consolidation so important health interventions can continue in the upcoming year.

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