

October 9, 2025

Ms. Danielle Hollahan
Executive Director,
New York State of Health
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Room 2580
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Ms. Hollahan:

On behalf of the hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, I write to express support for New York's request to terminate its Section 1332 Medicaid waiver and revert to its prior Section 1332 waiver, which will transition the Essential Plan to a Basic Health Plan under federal regulations.

We and our members are proud that New York has been more successful than almost any other state in reducing its number of uninsured residents. Expanded coverage has significantly improved access to care, a critical component of nonprofit hospitals' mission. Caring for fewer uninsured patients has also been important to hospitals' financial stability over the past decade.

Our association, too, has been proud to partner with the Department of Health for more than two decades to ensure access to coverage for the communities we serve. At our Long Island branch, the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, we have served as a facilitated enrollment contractor to the Department going back to the pre-ACA Family Health Plus and Children's Health Insurance Programs. We currently provide Medicaid enrollment services for the aged, blind and disabled populations and general consumer assistance through the Community Health Advocates program, in addition to having led the regional Keep New York Covered initiative during the COVID wind-down period. Collectively, our association and its members are passionately committed to the success of New York's health insurance programs.

Therefore, we find it regrettable that recent changes in federal statute contained in H.R. 1 are forcing the state to reconfigure this safety net. However, we support the decision to terminate its Section 1332 waiver and revert to the Basic Health Plan. This will preserve New York's ability to extend free and low-cost coverage to the greatest number of residents given new federal restrictions and funding cuts. We commend the Department

for utilizing the Medicaid waiver process strategically to maximize these coverage opportunities.

We look forward to continuing this important work together and welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource to you as you consider other changes needed to adapt New York's insurance programs.

Best regards,

/s/ *Wendy D. Darwell*

Wendy D. Darwell
President and Chief Executive Officer