



March 6, 2018

Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12248

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Capitol Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Senate Coalition Leader Jeffrey Klein
Legislative Office Building, Room 913
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Majority Leader Flanagan, Speaker Heastie, and Coalition Leader Klein,

The Senate and Assembly have played a crucial role in defending the rights and health of millions of patients across the state, including supporting patient access to medications in the state's Medicaid program. Unfortunately, the Executive Budget is seeking to repeal important patient protections. It proposes to repeal prescriber prevails for all medication classes in both Medicaid fee for service and managed care. This leaves millions of patients without protections for necessary medications. On behalf of the undersigned and the patients we serve, we ask that you oppose provisions that repeal prescriber prevails in Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care, and that you consider expanding this important patient protection to all drug classes across both programs.

Patients and their health care providers face challenges when it comes to finding proper treatment, because no illness comes in a one-size-fits-all form. Responses to medications vary based on an individual's age, ethnicity, and comorbidities, making it crucial that health care providers have the ability to select medications best suited to treat their patients' unique needs.

Prescriber prevails is a cost-effective means to help ensure that patients get the most appropriate treatments – and get treatments that they can adhere to. Appropriateness and adherence are proven to help avoid costly inpatient and emergency room care, as well as to improve quality of life.

Regardless of disease state, all patients deserve the equal and meaningful protections afforded through prescriber prevails. Please oppose the Governor's provisions to repeal prescriber prevails in Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care, and support expanding prescriber prevails to all drug classes.

We thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Latino Commission on AIDS
Hispanic Health Network
Mental Health Association in New York State
Northeast Kidney Foundation
XLH Network, Inc
International Institute for Human Empowerment
National Multiple Sclerosis Society - New York MS Coalition Action Network
New York State Academy of Family Physicians
US Pain Foundation
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
Living Hope for Mental Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness - New York City Metro
Westchester Independent Living Center, Inc.
Hispanic Federation
New York Association on Independent Living
Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
National Alliance on Mental Illness - New York State
Iris House, Inc.
American Lung Association of the Northeast
Multiple Sclerosis Resources of Central New York, Inc. (MS Resources)
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
American Liver Foundation
Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc. (ALIA)
InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc. (IAC)
New York Association of Emerging and Multicultural Providers (NYAEMP)
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Empire Justice Center
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Coalition of Provider Associations (COPA)
Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY)
Latino Commission on AIDS
Hispanic Health Network
Empire Justice Center