

The War on Healthcare Continues

THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE

The Trump Administration and its allies in Congress who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through legal attacks, budget defunding, and sabotage

THOSE WHO PAY THE PRICE

- X 21 million newly insured
- X 3 million children
- X 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions
- X 60 million Medicare beneficiaries
- X 2 million young adults covered by their parents' plans



Once again, healthcare is on the chopping block. In 2018, American voters sent a loud message that healthcare was by far their top concern and that they opposed any cuts to critical healthcare funding. Rather than listen to the overwhelming mandate from voters, the Trump Administration has announced its support of a decision by a Federal judge in Texas invalidating the entire ACA. Specifically, the Justice Department is taking steps to litigate the ACA out of existence. **It is a reminder to everyone that the Administration will not stop trying to eliminate the ACA and defund Medicaid and Medicare.**

This legal action is just one attack. The Trump Administration has been attacking healthcare steadily, on every front, since it took office.

- It went after healthcare enrollment, cutting the enrollment period from three months to just six weeks, slashing the advertising budget by 90%, and reducing funding for navigators who help people enroll, from nearly \$63 million to \$10 million.
- It ended critical funding to insurers who offer healthcare to lower income Americans, causing premiums to rise.
- It expanded junk plans that are cheaper than traditional healthcare plans but offer very limited coverage.
- Its 2020 budget to Congress proposes over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and over \$850 billion in cuts to Medicare.

Meanwhile, others in Congress have introduced a new proposal to protect and improve healthcare. Called the Protecting Pre-existing Conditions & Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019, here's what it does:

- **Lowers premiums and allows more middle-income people to qualify** for subsidies
- Strengthens protections for **people with pre-existing conditions**
- Prohibits insurance companies from **selling junk plans**
- **Strengthens enrollment** for healthcare coverage

ACT NOW
TO PROTECT AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTHCARE

- 1) Share this newsletter
- 2) Call your legislators at (202) 224-3121 and tell them you support the Protecting Pre-existing Conditions & Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019
- 3) Spread the word on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram at [hepnewyork](https://www.instagram.com/hepnewyork) and on Twitter at [@hepnewyork.org](https://twitter.com/hepnewyork)
- 4) Join our email list at info@hepnewyork.org or on our website www.HealthcareEducationProject.org

National Donate Life Month

How You Can Help

Organ donations can be critical to saving a life—and with April being National Donate Life Month, now is as good a time as ever to point out just how important organ donors are.

- ✓ In 2016, more than 33,600 transplants saved lives
- ✓ More than 118,000 men, women and children await organ transplants, including nearly 10,000 in New York
- ✓ And that list continues to grow—every 10 minutes, someone is added to a transplant list



- ✓ Approximately 8,000 people die each year because of a lack of organ transplants
- ✓ The top two organs for which patients are on waiting lists are the kidney (80%) and liver (12%)
- ✓ In 2016, 4 out of 5 donations were from deceased donors, and 1 out of 5 donations from living donors

To sign up, visit donatelifen.y.gov or registerme.org today

The good news is that you can help! Just by signing up to be an organ donor, you are offering the potential to save someone's life. The Healthcare Education Project has partnered with Governor Cuomo's office to raise awareness about how important it is to register as an organ donor. It takes just a few minutes and the good it does is immeasurable.

More than 5 million New Yorkers have already signed up as registered organ, eye, and tissue donors — are you one of them?



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WANT MORE HEALTH TIPS? VISIT WWW.HEALTHCAREEDUCATIONPROJECT.ORG OR JOIN OUR MAILING LIST AT INFO@HEPNEWYORK.ORG

WE ARE IN THE COMMUNITY

Resources You Can Use

Mental health. Vaccinations. Understanding health insurance.

HEP has a range of popular resources on our website that you can read and download.

Wish to attend a healthcare event in your area?

Email us at info@hepnewyork.org.

What is a Copay?
A small, fixed amount outlined in the policy that you pay each time a covered service is provided.

What is a Deductible?
The amount you must pay out of pocket for covered expenses before the insurance company will cover the remaining costs.

What is a Premium?
The amount you must pay for your insurance plan.

MEDICAL BILL
Copay paid by insured person
Remaining cost paid by the insurance company

Upcoming Community Events

Syracuse:

'Hot Topics in Healthcare' discussion forum for senior citizens
April 30, 2019 • 11:30 a.m. • Brighton Towers Community Room
For more information, email [LaToya Jones](mailto:LaToya.Jones@1199funds.org), LaToya.Jones@1199funds.org

Buffalo:

Buffalo Public Schools Third Annual Parent and Family Engagement Summit
May 4, 2019 • 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. • All High Stadium
For more information, email [Asim Johnson](mailto:Asim.Johnson@1199funds.org), asim.johnson@1199funds.org

Long Island:

(1) Stand up to Poverty Community Health Fair
April 13, 2019 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Northville Turnpike, Riverhead, NY

(2) Suffolk County Human Rights Commission Health Symposium Health Equity
April 17, 2019 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Touro Law School, Central Islip
For more information, email Luis.Valenzuela@1199funds.org

New York City

Brooklyn:

Shape-up Bushwick
June 6, 2019 • 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Irving Square Park between Knickerbocker Avenue and Weirfield.
For more information, email [Jennifer Clarke-Craig](mailto:Jennifer.Clarke-Craig@1199funds.org), Jennifer.Clarke-Craig@1199funds.org

Staten Island:

Women's Empowerment Tea Forum
May 4, August 3, October 19, 2019 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Central Family Life Center, 59 Wright St., Staten Island, NY, 10304
For more information, email [Jenny Palaguachi](mailto:Jenny.Palaguachi@1199funds.org), Jenny.Palaguachi@1199funds.org

Southeast Queens:

Weight Loss Transformation Fitness Challenge, in partnership with Senator Leroy Comrie
April 13 and April 27, 2019 • 2:30 p.m.

Awards ceremony
May 18, 2019 • 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Queens Library, 218-13 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights
For more information, email [Marcelle Dinnall](mailto:Marcelle.Dinnall@1199funds.org) at Marcelle.Dinnall@1199funds.org

Northwest Queens:

(1) Summer Resource Parent Fair
April 11, 2019 • 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
PS/ IS 102, 55-24 Van Horn St., Elmhurst, NY 11373
For more information contact [Claudia Rendon](mailto:Claudia.Rendon@Schools.NYC.gov), C.Rendon@Schools.NYC.gov, (718) 446 3308

(2) Annual Family Wellness Festival, NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm
May 4, 2019 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. • P.S. 227 Louis Armstrong School, 32-02 Junction Blvd., E. Elmhurst, NY 11369
For more information, email [Cruz S. Torres Cano](mailto:Cruz.S.TorresCano@1199funds.org), Susana.TorresCano@1199funds.org



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NOTES FROM THE FRONTLINE

A Conversation with Nasirah Monique Buissereth

By LaToya Jones, Healthcare Education Project Advocate for Central New York

Nasirah Monique Buissereth has fought on our frontlines in the U.S. Navy. Today, she is on the frontlines in the healthcare industry and as a local community activist. Nasirah is an RN at St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse, N.Y., and is pursuing her degree at LeMoyne College to become a Nurse Practitioner. She is a staunch advocate for health, human justice, and diversity within our healthcare institutions. As a community leader, Nasirah advocates for the underrepresented and impoverished – homeless populations, children, seniors, and all individuals who may face barriers to healthcare. She is cofounder of We Rise Above the Streets Inc.



A cookout for the homeless in downtown Syracuse where Nasirah (seated at left) put together a team of community members and healthcare providers to wash the feet of the homeless and provide them with new socks and shoes that were donated.

1 What do you feel is the biggest specific threat to healthcare today?

Honestly, the continued legal attack from a group of lawmakers trying to remove Obamacare, also known as the Affordable Care Act. Pulling healthcare out from under those who need it will be catastrophic for the poor. These people do not consider our patients, friends, and family members who depend on this coverage to live daily. This would be a loss for people who need it.

2 What type of advocacy work has your organization and others that you are a part of done in Central New York?

I am cofounder of We Rise Above the Streets Recovery Outreach. It's a not-for-profit located in Syracuse. We deliver high energy messages that encourage people to live up to their full potential by breaking the cycles of homelessness and crime many face daily, and unblocking the barriers that prevent individuals from living healthier lives. If those barriers remain, people will not be able to take care of their health.



A day that they fed the homeless and less fortunate on the west side at St. Lucys.

3 Has the work been effective?

This organization's work is necessary in advocating for our homeless and less fortunate friends. It gives them a voice and a place where they can tell their story. The work has united the community and the homeless population by creating relationships between them. The homeless community has established trust with us. This has allowed us to work against the barriers that they may have to accessing healthcare, like affordable housing and establishing care with a doctor. But it also includes educating the population about healthcare disparities.

Last year, we hosted a cookout for the homeless where I organized a healthcare section for people with diabetes and other pre-existing conditions. One project was washing the feet of the homeless to cultivate a care area for healthy feet. I coordinated the washing and inspection of their feet with local volunteers. This was done for our homeless friends to ensure they did not have signs and symptoms that could be addressed before their conditions worsened.

4 What is the one thing you would say to the New York Congressional Delegation?

The number of people who have been insured in our state has grown every year. We thank our representatives for the healthcare funding that has been secured. I ask that they please support the Affordable Care Act and continue to ensure that New Yorkers have affordable healthcare. Our healthcare systems, such as nursing homes and hospitals require continuous funding and no cuts to serve the people in our communities, as well as the patients in the institutions that we directly provide care to.