**Coverage 4 All**

*A campaign of Health Care for All New York (HCFANY) led by*

*Make the Road New York and the New York Immigration Coalition*

**FY2021 Legislative and Budget Priority**

1. Allocate $532 million to create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are currently excluded because of their immigration status (introduced as A5974/S3900).

**Needs**

Essential Plan for excluded immigrants. New York state elected officials, led by Governor Cuomo, have passionately committed to protecting and supporting immigrant communities under attack from Washington, D.C. More than 400,000 New Yorkers cannot enroll in health insurance because of their immigration status. But by allocating $532 million New York policymakers can make them eligible for quality, affordable coverage through a state-funded Essential Plan. We estimate that 110,000 of them would enroll annually when the program is fully implemented. This measure would shore up New York’s historic commitment to immigrants and support the vital economic engine of health care by reducing providers’ and payers’ exposure to uncompensated care costs by $130 million annually.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**New York State should create a state-funded Essential Plan for ALL New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level, regardless of immigration status, by enacting A5974/S3900.**

**Key Points**

* New York has a history of providing coverage to immigrant communities excluded from federal programs. The state should continue to step up where federal policies fall short and lead nationally on immigrant healthcare issues by enacting a state-funded Essential Plan for immigrants.
* During this time of potential change to our health and immigration landscape, New York has the opportunity to build on its bold leadership for people under threat of losing Temporary Protected Status and other immigration protections, and thus their current health insurance eligibility.
* Expanding coverage makes New York’s health care providers more financially sound by reducing the burden of unreimbursed care for uninsured patients by $130 million annually, and helps payers by bringing more people into coverage, ensuring they experience less cost shifting.

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1. Based on per-person estimates from the Urban Institute: <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/how-would-state-based-individual-mandates-affect-health-insurance-coverage-and-premium-costs/view/full_report> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)