



January 23, 2009

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As you know, Congress is contemplating the enactment of an increase in the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) as part of a federal fiscal stimulus package. This measure would make available significant increased federal Medicaid funds for New York State. We urge you to ensure that New York receives the maximum possible increase in federal funding and to further ensure that these funds are targeted to preserving and strengthening New York's ambulatory health care safety net and to bolstering HIV/AIDS services.

The HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York is comprised of physicians, service providers, advocates, and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and is charged with setting priorities and allocating resources to meet the health and social service needs of PLWHAs. Members of the Planning Council are thoroughly aware of the multiple problems confronting this high need population and of the substantial financial resources required to treat and retain these individuals in care. Adequate funding is critical.

We urge you to make every effort to ensure that New York receives the increased federal support that our state so desperately needs. Equally important, we urge you to ensure that funds received through an FMAP increase are used to support ambulatory care services and, in particular, services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your commitment to this vulnerable population.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Soraya Elcock". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Soraya Elcock
Community Co-Chair

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