THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

March 20, 2026

Hon. Cordell Cleare
New York State Senate, 30th District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 413
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Al Taylor
New York State Assembly, 71st District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 853
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Micah C. Lasher
New York State Assembly, 69th District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 847
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senate, 33rd District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 713
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President & Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Robert Jackson
New York State Senate, 31st District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 306
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Jordan J.G. Wright
New York State Assembly, 70th District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 741
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Amy Paulin
New York State Assembly, 88th District
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 451
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker, New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Carl Heastie and Honorable Members of the Senate and Assembly,

At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 adopted the following resolution regarding: **The New York Health Act (A1466 Paulin / S3425 Rivera, 2025–2026 session)** by unanimous consent, with 33 members present:

WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board 9 affirms that controlling health-care costs and ensuring health care for all residents are both of paramount importance, and

WHEREAS the simplest approach to generating savings, reducing fraud and paying claims is to move directly from the current multiple-payer approach with its high costs of administration, to a single-payer approach to health-care coverage where the government is the insurer, and

WHEREAS the New York Health Act will establish a comprehensive universal health insurance program for all New Yorkers with access to medical services and providers of their choice, remove financial barriers to health care, expand provider networks to ensure continuity of care, and

WHEREAS the New York Health Act will replace the current multi-payer system with a single-billing system, will be publicly financed by progressively-graduated assessments collected by the State and based on ability to pay, and will pool all health revenue sources into a dedicated New York Health Trust Fund, which will negotiate provider payments, including prescription drugs, and

WHEREAS, according to the April 2015 Economic Analysis of the New York Health Act report, by Gerald Friedman, Professor Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the New York Health Act would provide a net savings of over $45 billion in the first year alone after program improvements and expansions of $25 billion (e.g. for increased utilization due to universal coverage, expanded and more comprehensive health benefits, increased Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement). In addition, ~98% of New Yorkers will pay less than they do now for access to health care if a progressive financing mechanism such as the one proposed in the recent economic analysis of the New York Health Act is adopted, and

WHEREAS, according to the nonpartisan RAND Corporation's 2018 economic analysis of this legislation, the New York Health Act would expand coverage for New Yorkers while reducing costs - concluding specifically that "NYHA could expand coverage while initially keeping overall health care spending similar to the status quo, and that small decreases in total health care spending would grow over time [..]. Increases in utilization of health care services under the NYHA would be offset by decreases primarily in provider payment rates and health plan administrative costs", and

WHEREAS, a 2024 summary and evaluation of the RAND Corporation's analysis by Dr. Leonard Rodberg, PhD confirmed that the NYHA, if fully implemented, would generate net savings of $16.8 billion, or 4.8% of total expected costs, as compared with projections for the status quo, making for more than a decade-long history economic analysis demonstrating the feasibility of the New York Health Act, and

WHEREAS, according to 2024 Census Bureau figures, 501,095 New York City residents, 5.9% of the population, had no insurance. Furthermore, as 15% of uninsured Americans who under 65 are ineligible for coverage under the ACA due to immigration status, leaving 611,000 uninsured NY State residents ineligible for financial assistance under the ACA, and

WHEREAS, the federal domestic policy bill signed into law by President Donald Trump on July 4th, which includes over $1 trillion in Medicaid cuts alongside massive tax breaks for the wealthy, and that Insurance premiums are also projected to rise nearly 18% in 2026, doubling last year's increase, and more than 100,000 residents of Northern Manhattan are projected to lose coverage through Medicaid and the Essential Plan, and

WHEREAS expanding health insurance coverage to currently-uninsured New Yorkers will eliminate barriers to both preventative care and medical care related to disease outbreaks and other public health crises, reducing both costly and preventable emergency room visits and communicable disease transmission, and improving health outcomes for all New Yorkers, including those who currently have insurance, and

WHEREAS, the New York Health Act will extend coverage to these and other New Yorkers, and expand coverage for every NY enrollee in Medicare or Medicaid, by serving as a wraparound for these programs and ensuring their access to the expanded benefits offered under the NYHA, including by picking up Medicare Part B premiums and eliminating Medicare "cost-sharing." resulting in an environment where almost every family in New York State will spend less in taxes for the New York Health Act than they now spend for health care and coverage, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid costs the City $6.57 Billion each year, 8.4% of our $78 Billion budget. Health insurance benefit costs for City employees are $5.6 Billion, 13% of the City's $43 Billion personnel expenditures, and

WHEREAS the New York Health Act will eliminate the "local share" of Medicaid, a financial burden that drives up local property taxes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 strongly supports adoption of the New York Health Act, A1466 Paulin / S3425 Rivera, and be it further

RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 9 urges the New York State legislature and the Governor to pass this bill into law and take the opportunity to accomplish this major and long-needed reform.

If you have any questions or further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me or District Manager Eutha Prince at the board office at (646) 355-3172.

Sincerely,

Victor Edwards
Chair

cc: Hon. Zohran Mamdani, Mayor
Hon. Mark Levine, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation

References:

- Frequently Asked Questions About the New York Health Act - PNHP NY
- All About the NY Health Act.docx
- Frequently Asked & Answered Questions NY Health Act and Medicare - NY Statewide Senior Action Council
- Health Insurance Coverage in New York State
- Updated_Analysis_of_the_Economics_of_the_NY_Health_Act_LRodberg.pdf
- Summary and Evaluation of the RAND Corporation's Assessment of the New York Health Act
- An Assessment of the New York Health Act: A Single-Payer Option for New York State - RAND Corporation
- New York Health Act Resources - PNHP
- A Single Payer System In New York State - NYSNA
- About the NYHA — Campaign for New York Health
- Adopting a Single-Payer Health System.
- Universal healthcare as pandemic preparedness: The lives and costs that could have been saved during the COVID-19 pandemic - PMC