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September 18, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
NYS Capitol Building, Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As advocates for New York's adults, children, and families with mental health and substance use disorder related needs and the service providers who support them across our state, we are deeply concerned about the federal cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We collectively serve 1012 providers offering 7207 programs under the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Addiction Supports and Services.

We see firsthand how critical continued access to health care and food support is for stability, recovery and community well-being. We are not only concerned about the individuals we serve, but also the behavioral health worker who relies on Medicaid for prescription drug coverage and the single parent working two jobs whose children depend on SNAP.

As you continue to make tough decisions and any fiscal actions, **we urge you to prioritize and maintain access to substance use disorder and mental health services and supports.** These services are life-saving and instrumental to supporting the health, stability and well-being of our families and communities across New York. And because of years of chronic underfunding, for example, not receiving the full Cost-of-Living-Adjustments (COLA) over the years, the behavioral health sector is experiencing statewide average of 20%-30% vacancy rate, and a 35% annual turnover rate depending on provider type while facing increased operational costs. In addition, individuals and families continue to have ever-increasing demands for our services, mounting waitlists, and very limited access to care.

Although trying times, we ask that our agencies receive a 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII), based on July 2025 CPI-U, to maintain our services and supports for the most vulnerable adults, children and families.

Protecting mental health and addiction services agencies is essential to public health, economic stability, and human dignity. Your recognition and support of New York's mental health and addiction treatment services and supports is appreciated.