

GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

555 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019 • T (212) 246-7100 • F (212) 262-6350 • WWW.GNYHA.ORG • PRESIDENT, KENNETH E. RASKE

February
Twenty-Five
2022

TO: Members of the New York State Legislature

FROM: Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)

RE: A.9288: School-Based Health Centers

A.9288 would amend the Social Services Law to extend the carve out of school-based health centers (SBHC) from Medicaid managed care permanently. GNYHA strongly supports this bill as written.

SBHCs provide primary, mental, and dental health care to over 250,000 underserved kids in public schools around New York State. GNYHA member hospital SBHCs serve over 100,000 children in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, Buffalo, Yonkers, and Rochester.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) had intended to include SBHC services in Medicaid managed care, but current statute has delayed those plans until April 1, 2023 at the earliest. Mandatory SBHC participation in managed care would impose a costly administrative burden on these critical safety-net clinics—currently weathering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic—with little benefit for the children they serve. GNYHA does, however, support efforts to enhance coordination between SBHCs and Medicaid managed care plans to improve quality of care.

To get paid under a full carve-in, SBHCs would have to contract with and be credentialed by all Medicaid managed care plans that operate in their service areas. They would also need to contract with their dental and behavioral health subcontractors. This carve-in would also require that SBHCs and Medicaid managed care plans establish new billing and payment policies and procedures.

Although the associated administrative costs are quite significant, particularly for the SBHCs, DOH has not allocated any funding for the implementation. In fact, State grant funding for SBHCs has been reduced by over 25% since 2013 (\$5.8 million). Moreover, DOH does not even anticipate realizing any savings from a carve-in of their services.

For the aforementioned reasons, GNYHA urges the Legislature to pass A.9288.



GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.