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**Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Advocates Decry Senate’s Failure to Fund States and Localities and Address Health, Hunger and Housing Crises**

Albany, NY - Advocates for New Yorkers with significant mental health and addictions services needs condemned Senate Republicans’ newly released COVID Relief Proposal for its failure to address the needs of vulnerable adults, families and children and the support from states and localities they rely on across our nation.

Thousands of New Yorkers with major mental illnesses are at risk of losing their homes, which are essential to make recovery possible and to provide the means to connect them to vital community-based mental health and substance use services. Millions of children are missing their routines, activities and education. Taken nationally, countless Americans are facing foreclosures, bankruptcies, broken families, serious depression and ever rising rates of suicide and fatal drug overdose—all while the COVID virus continues to spread.

Yet, Senate leaders proposed a relief package yesterday that falls far short and fails to address the urgent call of Americans in need and to help heal our nation. Instead of prioritizing funding for Medicaid and assistance to hard-pressed states, the Republican proposal slashes unemployment benefits and funds a new \$1.7 billion headquarters for the FBI.

The Senate’s proposal fails to address growing hunger and housing insecurity, unemployment and loss of healthcare coverage, especially for hard hit African American, Latinx and immigrant households. Moreover, it fails to replenish funding for the essential services and supports that state and local governments provide, all while the federal government watches the pandemic spread and heaps harm on ever rising numbers of Americans in crisis.

Senate Republicans must immediately enter into meaningful negotiations with the House to produce legislation that averts a catastrophic economic and health crisis.

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