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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SAMRA G. BROUK
Senator, 55TH District

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February 9, 2025

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building
Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins,

Medicaid Managed Care has been a detrimental experiment to New Yorkers in need of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services. **Our solution should be to amend the Social Services Law by including [S8309A](#) as an Article VII Legislation in the SFY27 Senate One House Budget.**

By removing most community-based OMH and OASAS mental health and substance use disorder services, from the state's Medicaid managed care program we can restore the availability of essential services to New Yorkers fighting for access to care, **and save New York State \$400 million annually.**

Medicaid managed care has proven detrimental to the ability of New Yorkers to secure the mental health and substance use disorder care they need and deserve, in a timely fashion. Insurers and/or their subcontractors continue to employ tactics that result in months and sometimes years of reimbursement delays as well as persistently inaccurate payments.

These barriers prevent providers from having the required resources to hire and retain staff, launch needed programs, and compete in a job market already strained by shortages. Instead of investing in care, agencies are forced to expend scarce resources chasing reimbursement.

Given recent developments at the federal level, we have grave concerns for the future of the NYS Medicaid Program.

We know there is a better way, and we need to act now in light of the ongoing incidence of rates of deaths of despair that continues to claim the lives of so many New Yorkers. By carving out behavioral health from Medicaid managed care, the State can save hundreds of millions which can be reinvested into much-needed mental health and addiction care and a well-trained workforce to provide these lifesaving services.

Now is the time for New York State to take managed care middlemen out of the equation and move behavioral health services back to Fee for Service in Medicaid by including [S8309A](#) in the Senate One House Budget. This is what will truly protect and expand access for vulnerable New Yorkers with Medicaid in need of mental health and addiction care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brouk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and the last name "Brouk" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Samra Brouk