

To Congressman John Faso,

United in our commitment to the poor, the sick, and those who cannot care for themselves, we call upon you in the strongest terms to oppose the latest effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the “Graham-Cassidy” amendment. The bill’s sponsors want to push the measure through the U.S. Senate by September 30.

Millions of our citizens – many who are chronically ill, frail, and elderly – rely on Medicaid to meet their basic needs for health care services and long term care support. By eliminating Medicaid expansion, and imposing a per capita cap on the entire Medicaid program, Graham-Cassidy would slash \$18.9 billion from New York alone by 2026, forcing the state to cut services funded by Medicaid, depriving our most vulnerable citizens of access to quality, affordable care.

Compounding our concerns, Graham-Cassidy, like the preceding ACA repeal proposals would dramatically increase the ranks of the uninsured, undermine the solvency of the Medicare program, and make it more difficult for people with pre-existing conditions to gain health care coverage.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.” It is abundantly clear that Graham-Cassidy does not meet this test. Congress has the power to act, and it would be immoral, plain and simple, to withhold good from the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers that stand to lose coverage and suffer under this proposed legislation.

We urge you to oppose the bill and to work with us going forward to ensure that all New Yorkers receive the care that they not only need, but deserve.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jordan Scruggs

St. James United Methodist Church
Kingston, NY

Rev. Joseph Perdue

First Baptist Church of Cooperstown
Cooperstown, NY

Rev Sharon Rankins-Burd

Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake UMCs
Fly Creek, NY

Rev. Michelle Meech

St. John’s Episcopal Church
Kingston, NY

Rev. Phil Grigsby

Executive Director
Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Schenectady, NY

Rev. Richard Breuninger

First United Methodist Church
(Retired) Oneonta, NY

Rev. Dr. Eric Titus

St. John’s Reformed Church
Red Hook, NY

Rev. Peter Cook

Executive Director
New York State Council of Churches

Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes

First Presbyterian Church
Cooperstown, NY

Rev. Bobby Outterson-Murphy

United Ministry of Delhi
Delhi, NY

Rev. Jonathan Litzner

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Cobleskill, NY

Rev. Joanna Tipple

Ghent Reformed Church
Ghent, NY

Rev. Kathryn Beilke

First Presbyterian Church
Hudson, NY