

June 1, 2023

Speaker Carl Heastie  
New York State Assembly  
932 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As health care organizations and patient advocates, we write in strong support of the A.733-A (Rozić), which would increase hospital transparency and access to health care. The bill's companion, S.1003-A (Hinchey) has already passed the Senate.

Protecting a patient's health should be a hospital's first priority, and when faced with a time sensitive health care decision, patients should be presented with all of their options based on medical judgments and science. Unfortunately, too many hospitals have policy-based exclusions of care – that is, denials of care not based on sound medical judgment or hospital capacity, but instead based on the bureaucratic decision-making of non-medical personnel. Worse still, patients often do not have the ability to determine whether their local hospital provides the care they seek, because information about policy-based restrictions on care is too difficult to obtain.

A.733-A will offer prospective patients the tools they need to determine whether the hospital in their area provides the care they seek prior to admission. In addition, it will give New York the tools to identify regions in the state where particular types of care are unavailable and to understand the impacts of such gaps on communities and individuals statewide.

We strongly support the bill and urge its immediate passage.

A.733-A will require the Department of Health to collect a list of policy-based exclusions from each general hospital and to publish that information, in a standardized and readily understandable form, on its website. It will seek to ensure that the information reaches patients' hands by adding information about policy-based exclusions and the Department's website to the existing disclosures regarding patients' rights and responsibilities required of both hospitals and insurers. This will help ensure that patients are aware of whether they can obtain care at their local hospital before they are in an emergency situation.

In addition, A.733-A will require the Department of Health to report publicly and to the New York State Legislature about the impact of policy-based exclusions on patients' ability to access quality, comprehensive, affordable care near their residences and whether and how access to care varies by community, as well as by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, laying the groundwork to eliminate care deserts in the state.

In the wake of the *Dobbs* decision, and as states across the country prohibit gender affirming care, hospital transparency is particularly important as more people travel to New York for abortion care or gender affirming care and some providers see longer wait times.

For these reasons, we urge you to co-sponsor and expediently pass A.733-A.

Sincerely,

AAUW Rockland County  
Abortion Coalition for Telemedicine Access  
ACOG District II  
American Atheists  
BK Forge (Brooklyn For Reproductive and Gender Equity)  
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center  
Coalition for Homeless Youth  
Committee of Interns and Residents SEIU  
Community Service Society of New York  
The Door Adolescent Health Center  
If/When/How, Brooklyn Law School Chapter  
Jews for Secular Democracy  
NARAL NYC Action Council  
National Abortion Federation  
National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
NYCD16 Indivisible  
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts  
Progressive Schenectady  
Public Health Solutions  
Rainbow Access Initiative  
Reproductive Health Access Project – New York Chapter  
RHEDI / Reproductive Health Education in Family Medicine  
WCLA – Choice Matters  
Women to the Front (WTTF)

CC. Members of the Assembly