

2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS

New York StateWide Senior Action Council (“*StateWide*”) urges the NYS Congressional Delegation and the President to address our priority concerns in the 118th Congress. We will be strong advocates on issues related to:

- adequacy of planning for disaster preparedness/public health emergencies
- the home care worker shortage
- ensuring quality of care in hospitals and nursing homes and upholding consumer rights
- universal access to broadband connectivity, especially important due to the expanded reliance on tele-health services,
- adequate funding for services for older residents
- improving the eligibility, rights and access to services for all New Yorkers with a focus on specific solutions for Medicare and Medicaid enrollees
- Improving the solvency of the Medicare and Social Security Trust funds to ensure benefits for generations to come and expand benefits for current enrollees.
- improving health delivery systems and access to care,
- addressing widespread health and housing inequality that disproportionately impacts persons of lower income and persons of color needs immediate action.
- supporting access to all medically approved health care, including reproductive care services, to ensure privacy between patient and practitioner and ensure that government policies do not discriminate.

To accomplish these goals, we urge adoption of various bills and specifically urge:

- adopting “Improved Medicare for All,” [HR 3421](#) and [S1655](#) which places patients before profits and expands traditional Medicare benefits to include hearing, dental, vision and long term care service, while achieving savings for

most. We will support an immediate incremental approach to achieving this goal by allowing persons age 50 and over to buy into the Medicare system.

Furthermore, we support the “State-Based Universal Health Care Act” ([HR 6270](#)) to streamline the ability of states to set up universal health care programs (like the NY Health Act.)

- improving Social Security benefits while increasing program solvency through measures such as Social Security 2100, SAVE Benefits Act & the Social Security Expansion Act, while we unequivocally oppose efforts to establish a behind closed doors Commission to address fiscal matters. Specifically, we **oppose**:

- Fiscal Stability Act ([S.3262](#)/Manchin, Romney)
- Fiscal Commission Act ([HR 5779](#)/Huizenga)
- Sustainable Budget Act ([S.743](#)/Lummis, [HR 710](#)/Case)

- expanding Medicare benefits and program solvency, caps on out-of-pocket costs, reducing the profit margin of Medicare Advantage plans to be in line with Medicare’s administrative costs, prohibit deceptive and inappropriate marketing practices, and end the requirement for three days of hospitalization prior to coverage for rehabilitation services in institutional settings.

Specifically, we **support**:

- improving benefits (short of improved Medicare for All) as found in the Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Benefits Act ([HR 33](#)/Doggett)
 - “Assuring Medicare’s Promise Act,” adding \$650 billion to the Trust Fund by closing tax loopholes and ensuring that wealthy Americans pay their fair share. ([HR34](#)/Doggett)
 - “Medicare and Social Security Fair Share Act,” funding for the Social Security and Medicare trust funds by extending the payroll tax on wages, self-employment income, and investment income to taxpayers with earnings exceeding \$400,000. ([S1174](#)/Whitehouse- [HR4535](#)/Boyle)
- improving access to quality care in the health care system, specifically by:
 - improving nursing home safety by establishing 4.1 minimum hours of care per resident per day, improving oversight and enforcement of increased penalties that are greater than an acceptable cost of doing business.
 - expand Home and Community Based Services while supporting home care workers ,the “HCBS Access Act” ([S762](#)/Casey-[HR1493](#)/Dingell)