

2026 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 119th Congress. We will be strong advocates on issues related to:

- **solutions to the home care worker shortage to ensure people of all ages and abilities can receive care in the community**
- **ensuring quality of care in hospitals and nursing homes, including adequate oversight, safe staffing standards and upholding consumer rights**
- **minimizing the use of insurer prior authorization that delays access to services that are the recognized standard of care**
- **adequate funding for services for older residents, including modernization of the Older Americans Act and extending the Affordable Connectivity Program**
- **addressing the shortage of affordable, accessible and supportive housing and ensuring funding for Permanent Supportive Housing for Older Adults**
- **improving the solvency of the Medicare and Social Security Trust funds without cuts to benefits or eligibility for current enrollees or generations to come**
- **opposing privatization of Social Security and policies that favor commercial Medicare coverage over original Medicare**
- **opposing reductions in the federal share of Medicaid costs and proposals to provide block grant funding to states that are a de facto cut**
- **opposing tax cuts for the richest Americans and corporations at the expense of reduced services benefiting the majority of Americans (eg. healthcare, social services such as SNAP and LIHEAP benefits and environmental protections)**
- **efforts to reduce homelessness, hunger and poor health outcomes by restoring and improving federal funding for Medicaid, SNAP, Affordable Care Act enhanced premium supports and senior housing.**

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

- **adopting “Improved Medicare for All,” which places patients before profits and expands traditional Medicare benefits to include hearing, dental, vision and long-term care services,**

while achieving savings for most. We will support an immediate incremental approach to achieving this goal by allowing persons aged 50 and over to buy into the Medicare system. Furthermore, we support the “State-Based Universal Health Care Act” to streamline the ability of states to set up universal health care programs (like the NY Health Act.) We oppose amendments or replacements to the Affordable Care Act that reduce federal financial participation, make premiums unaffordable, reduce benefits or change vital patient protections.

- improving Social Security benefits while increasing program solvency. We oppose efforts to raise the age to collect full benefits. We will unequivocally oppose efforts to establish a behind closed doors approach to address fiscal matters. We support a COLA that better reflects the needs of older adults
- expanding Medicare benefits and program solvency, caps on out-of-pocket costs, reducing the excess Medicare Advantage plan payments to be more in line with Medicare’s administrative costs, prohibit deceptive marketing practices, stop the inappropriate delays in approving utilization 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
 - “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.
 - “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.
- 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.
 - expanding Home and Community Based Services while supporting home care workers, the “HCBS Access Act”
 - 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
 - ensuring student loan forgiveness programs for needed health care occupations