

Erie County Legislature

HON. TAISHA ST. JEAN TARD
2ND DISTRICT LEGISLATOR



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Dear Erie County Medical Center Executive Team, Jericho Road Community Health Center, Community Services for Every1, Evergreen Health, Best Self, Commissioner Gale Burstein, Commissioner Sarah Bonk, and Director Mark Cornell:

I am writing out of concern over the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and the damage it threatens to inflict on our health care system in Erie County. I am extremely alarmed by the scale and speed of these changes and the extraordinary risks they pose to the health, safety, and stability of our community.

Emergency rooms, hospitals, and community clinics do not function in isolation. They are part of an interdependent system that keeps our community healthy. Weakening Medicaid funding risks collapsing this entire network and destabilizing the system we rely on to deliver care. The OBBBA undermines the financial viability of hospitals, clinics, and providers that rely on Medicare and Medicaid to care for our most vulnerable residents.

Here in Western New York, the consequences are projected to be severe. In Western New York alone, these cuts are projected to eliminate 2,130 hospital jobs, cause a total loss of 3,954 jobs, and drain nearly \$900 million in economic activity from our region. These impacts will not only cripple institutional finances but will also deepen health disparities and jeopardize public health on a large scale.

Given the magnitude of this threat, we must have an open and comprehensive discussion about how we can mitigate these risks and assess what is foreseeable, and coordinate planning to protect the people of Erie County.

This letter serves as a request for your attendance at the Erie County Legislature's Finance and Management Committee meeting on Thursday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m. in Old County Hall, located at 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Sincerely,

Erie County Taisha St. Jean Tard, District 2