

Healthcare Reform Legislation & Rural Caucus Legislation
LWV NYS Advocacy Day — May 7, 2024
Healthcare Committee & Rural Caucus Committee

Priority Legislation — across NYS

Community Media Reinvestment Act NYS S2581 (Parker)/A5900 (Benedetto)

To change financing of PEG (Public, Educational, Governmental) broadcasting stations from being paid by surcharge on cable revenues to surcharge on streaming services. (Cable revenues are cratering as consumers shift to on-demand content.) These public access TV/radio stations are the only local source of news and critical information for many areas, especially in rural areas without internet access.

Hospital Policy Transparency S1003/Hinchey, A0733/Rozic

To require hospitals to publicly list procedures they opt not to perform, to allow identification and mapping of "healthcare deserts" where abortions, reproductive services and gender-affirming care are not available. It also requires the NYS Dept of Health to post hospital policies listing excluded procedures along with a comprehensive report on geographic areas of NYS lacking care because of these hospital policy opt-outs. Passed Senate 1/24/23; died Assembly; passed Sen 1/22/24; **passed Assembly 1/24/24, returned to Senate.**

NY Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act S4786A/Rivera, A08345A/AM Rajkumar

Directs NYS Health Commissioner to enter into partnerships to increase competition, lower prices, and address shortages in the market for generic prescription drugs, to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for public and private purchasers, taxpayers, and consumers, and to increase patient access to affordable drugs. (California passed a similar bill in 2020 which appears poised to [bring at-cost insulin to CA residents in 2025](#) : Google CalRx). **Passed Senate 1/30/24, referred to Assembly**

Hospital Closings S8843/Rivera, A1633A Simon —

Requires public notice and public engagement when a general hospital seeks to close entirely or close a unit that provides maternity, mental health or substance use care
Passed Assembly 6/1/23, died in Senate 1/3/24; 4/2/24 **passed Assembly, referred to Senate**

Over the last decade, 10 hospitals in NYS closed their maternity services (in Columbia, Franklin, Lewis, New York, Niagara, Ontario, Otsego, St. Lawrence and Wyoming counties). So far in 2024, two more maternity service closures are pending in Rensselaer and Suffolk counties. Two major closings of entire hospitals are moving forward in lower Manhattan and in Central Brooklyn, after last year's closures of another Brooklyn hospital and a hospital in Eastern Niagara County. More closures are likely; a recent study by the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform found that there are **27 rural hospitals in New York State at risk of closing, amounting to 53 percent of all rural hospitals in the state.**

MAID S244t/Hoylman-Sigal A0995/Paulin, **Medical Aid in Dying** (LWVNY allying with Compassion & Choices)

In NYS Budget but implementation will determine effectiveness — ask your rep to continue supporting

Fair Pay for Home Care S3189/May A08821/Paulin

To increase workforce to allow NYers to live and age in the community — minimum wage specific to the home care sector indexed to 150% of the state minimum wage — ensure provider reimbursement from the state and managed care organizations operating under Medicaid are sufficient to fund a high-quality system.

Repro Equity Grants S348/CLEARE A361B/Gonzalez-Rojas

NYS DOH to issue grant funding to eligible abortion providers and non-profit organizations that facilitate access to care to support provider capacity building, fund uncompensated care for those who lack coverage or for those whose coverage is not usable and support the practical support needs for individuals facing barriers to abortion care. **Passed Senate 1/22/24, referred to Assembly**

Local Journalism Sustainability A02958/Woerner

Provides tax credits to consumers for subscriptions to local news outlets and to news organizations for the employment of local news journalists

Priority Legislation — To mention as supported (advocacy only by knowledgeable supporters)

New York Health Act. A07897/Paulin S07590/Rivera

To establish a NYS-based health program covering every resident with comprehensive healthcare with no premiums, copays, deductibles, paid by public funding (federal and state) — to lower the cost of healthcare for 90+% of New Yorkers, to improve public health and allow equitable access,

Coverage 4 All S2237/Rivera A3020/Gonzalez Rojas

To allow offer eligibility for undocumented New Yorkers to buy into the Essential Plan (Obamacare) to reduce uninsured in NYS, to reduce strain on NYS providers who must currently provide unreimbursed care in emergency departments. Passed Senate 6/8/23, died in Assembly 1/3/24