



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
A1710 (Gonzalez-Rojas) / S3762 (Rivera)

Gay Men’s Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC), the world’s first and leading provider of HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and advocacy strongly supports passage of **A1710 (Gonzalez-Rojas) / S3762 (Rivera)**; an act that provides eligibility for services under the basic health program for individuals whose immigration status renders him or her ineligible for federal financial participation and who meet additional requirements.

This bill, colloquially named Coverage for All, aims to provide healthcare for the hundreds of thousands of undocumented New York residents. It calls for the state of New York to expand its current Essential Plan to all income-eligible New Yorkers with an income up to 250% of the federal poverty level but are excluded due to their immigration status.

Nearly a quarter million immigrants in New York are ineligible for healthcare coverage due to their immigration status.¹ It is estimated that the waiver would cover an additional population of 245,000 uninsured people in New York who are left out of federally funded health insurance, while also saving the state more than \$500 million a year, which is currently being spent on Emergency Medicaid for the population.²

As an organization that serves HIV- and AIDS-affected communities, GMHC recognizes the importance of maximizing access to HIV and AIDS treatments. Most insurance plans and state Medicaid programs cover PrEP, but its costs without insurance can reach \$22,000 to \$30,000 a year.³ When faced with such a steep price, individuals who need the treatment but do not have the financial capability to do so are forced between two difficult decisions, which may lead to further deterioration of their health.

For these reasons, and more, GMHC strongly supports and recommends the passage of **A1710 (Gonzalez-Rojas) / S3762 (Rivera)**.

¹ King, Nelson A. “Immigrant NYers Rally for Passage of Health Coverage for All – Caribbean Life.”

[www.caribbeanlife.com](https://www.caribbeanlife.com/immigrant-nyers-rally-for-passage-of-health-coverage-for-all/), March 8, 2023. <https://www.caribbeanlife.com/immigrant-nyers-rally-for-passage-of-health-coverage-for-all/>.

² King, Nelson A. “Immigrant NYers Rally for Passage of Health Coverage for All – Caribbean Life.”

[www.caribbeanlife.com](https://www.caribbeanlife.com/immigrant-nyers-rally-for-passage-of-health-coverage-for-all/), March 8, 2023. <https://www.caribbeanlife.com/immigrant-nyers-rally-for-passage-of-health-coverage-for-all/>.

³ Gerencher, Kristen . “How Much Does PrEP Cost? Insurance and Prices.” GoodRx, August 25, 2022.

<https://www.goodrx.com/truvada/truvada-hiv-prep-cost-generic-how-to-save#:~:text=PrEP%2C%20or%20pre%2Dexposure%20prophylaxis.>