



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

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## **AS CONGRESS REVISITS HEALTH CARE REPEAL, NEW YORKERS ARE WATCHING**

***Statement by Advocate Community Providers Chief Medical Officer Dr. Diego Ponieman***

**New York (September 18, 2017)** -- “As Congress gets back to work in Washington, DC, their scrambled, failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act may seem like a distant memory – but New Yorkers have not forgotten our representatives’ end-of-session votes. At least seven of New York’s U.S. representatives supported the House’s repeal of the ACA, turning their backs on the people of our great state. Rep. Chris Collins, Rep. John Faso, Rep. Peter King, Rep. Tom Reed, Rep. Elise Stefanik, Rep. Claudia Tenney and Rep. Lee Zeldin voted to take away health care coverage from almost 2.2 million New Yorkers. These seven members of New York’s congressional delegation voted to take away health care from some of our state’s most vulnerable residents: Medicaid recipients who qualify thanks to New York’s expansion of the program under the ACA in 2014.

Whether Congress has truly moved on from health care reform or will consider new efforts to dismantle the ACA, know this: Many thousands of community physicians like me who provide health care to thousands of New Yorkers relying on Medicaid coverage are watching. My patients cannot survive a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Cuts to Medicaid will be devastating to the beneficiaries who visit my practice and similar practices and clinics all over New York City. We all have a duty to lift up those in need and provide the highest quality, most compassionate care possible.”

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*Dr. Diego Ponieman is chief medical officer at [Advocate Community Providers](#), a member of the faculty at Mount Sinai Hospital and a primary care physician at Mount Sinai Doctors in Jackson Heights, Queens, and in private practice in upper Manhattan.*



## **About Advocate Community Providers**

Advocate Community Providers (ACP) unites nearly 3,500 providers, including 1,400 Primary Care Physicians and 1,700 specialists, dedicated to health, wellness and social services in lower income, underserved Hispanic, Asian and African-American communities throughout New York City. ACP's mission is to convene safety-net providers, partners and other stakeholders to create a culturally competent patient-centered, comprehensive and coordinated service care model to meet the needs of individuals and families participating in Medicaid.

ACP is one of 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPS) in New York's Delivery Reform Incentive Payment program (DSRIP) to transform the State's Medicaid system. DSRIP's goals include reducing avoidable hospitalizations and ensuring that Medicaid beneficiaries and their families switch to a community-based care system that emphasizes preventive care over reliance on the emergency room.

For more information on ACP or DSRIP, visit <http://www.acppps.org/>.