



MAY 28, 2019

STATEMENT OF CARL GINSBURG, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the New York Health Act.

I am Carl Ginsburg, director of communications, the New York State Nurses Association. ~~I am also a lawyer, and worked as a reporter, at all times~~ concentrating on healthcare matters.

The healthcare system in place today is literally—sickening.

What I hear from nurses working front line in the hospitals is this: acuities are high. That means that patients are arriving in hospital sicker than before.

The reason they are sicker is because they cannot afford care and forego it.

Most people don't have \$400 to cover an unexpected expense. So what good is it to have an insurance plans with deductibles of several thousand dollars?

We saw white male longevity decline for the first time in a generation, according to most recent federal data.

Nurses see people going home from the ER after suffering a heart attack because they cannot afford to be admitted or cannot miss work.

The insurance sold today is expensive and for many does not give them access to a system of care.

That is sickening.

We can learn a lot from history.

Medicare became law only after years during which the elderly were going bankrupt in large numbers.

That's right. No insurer would sell policies to the elderly for obvious reasons. And the hospitalization for the elderly resulted in bankruptcy for many.

Bankruptcy is now the fate of enormous numbers of all Americans... Recent data showed that more than 4 in 10 Americans diagnosed with cancer deplete all savings within two years.

Health costs are the leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

Americans getting sicker and going bankrupt.

It is sickening.

We can change it here in New York. This state .. you, our leadership.. can start the process of change.

New York leads in so many ways. A YES vote for New York Health puts those wheels in motion.

An end to what is so sickening for so many.

Your YES vote sends out a cry: we hear the suffering, we have the resources, we will take action!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the importance of keeping the labor movement central in passing and implementing the NY Health plan. This is to guarantee union members continue to receive their hard-won healthcare benefits, while lifting the boats of all New Yorkers to participate fully in the healthcare system.

It is .. critical by any definition.

Thank you.