



# SUPPORTS

## A.2705 (Gonzalez-Rojas)

### **AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to state aid reimbursement for public health services provided by a municipality in the city of New York**

In 2019, New York City experienced a significant reduction in its Article 6 matching funds, from 36% to 20%. This reduction has resulted in the loss of upwards of \$90 million annually in state public health funding, severely impacting the City's ability to provide essential public health services. Counties outside of New York City currently receive 36% reimbursement.

Article 6 funding is critical to delivering core public health services to New Yorkers across the five boroughs. These funds support essential programs including, but not limited to, vaccinations, tuberculosis, STI, and HIV testing and treatment, newborn home visits, chronic disease prevention, reproductive health care services, blood lead level investigations, and overdose prevention.

Restoring New York City's Article 6 state share reimbursement above the base grant to 36% is essential to ensuring equitable public health funding across the state. New York City has the largest proportion of Medicaid recipients, the largest population of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and the highest number of low-income individuals in New York State. To achieve our shared goal of protecting and promoting the health of all New Yorkers, we must increase—not decrease—our investments in New York State's public health infrastructure.

Furthermore, the potential threats to core public health functions at the federal level make state investment even more crucial. The rise of vaccine misinformation and disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic has already contributed to declining childhood vaccination rates across the country, including in New York City and State. Given the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, the State must act now to strengthen its commitment to public health funding. Additionally, New York City may face direct federal funding cuts, making state support even more necessary to sustain essential services for residents of the five boroughs.

This year's Executive Budget presents a critical opportunity to reaffirm the State's commitment to public health and health equity. For these reasons, we urge the Legislature to support and enact A02705.

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