



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Monday, April 1, 2019*

## **2,000 NYC DOCTORS: NYS BUDGET ENSURES HEALTHCARE REFORM CAN FLOURISH**

*Governor and Legislature Deal Means DSRIP Program Can Expand –  
Lower Costs, Better Care for New York’s Medicaid Population*

*First Time Transformative DSRIP Program Components Put to a Vote*

**New York, NY** – Today Governor Cuomo and the legislature agreed to a \$175 billion state budget. The following is a statement on the newly negotiated budget from **SOMOS Community Care Founder and Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj**:

“Transformative healthcare reform has been at work in New York’s low-income, immigrant-rich communities for four years now – and as of today’s vote, it can continue to flourish. Thanks to the Governor’s budget and support from the legislature, the work of transitioning vulnerable communities to a culture of preventive care within a value-based system – all while driving down costs and increasing care quality – can continue with greater resources.

“The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program has been fundamental in ensuring that primary care physicians and community partners can lead the charge to improve-outcomes and the state’s investment in our work gives every doctor in the SOMOS network the tools to address persistent health disparities in diverse, vulnerable communities.

“By including key expansions for the DSRIP program in the state budget, Governor Cuomo, New York State Senate majority leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie have reaffirmed their commitment to continue championing high-quality health care for New York’s most vulnerable at a time of uncertainty in Washington.

“With one year left in the DSRIP program, we can now continue to build healthier communities, and reach the DSRIP goal of driving unnecessary hospital usage down 25% by 2020.”

**On background:**

In the first four years of the DSRIP program, SOMOS Community Care has successfully reduced preventable hospital readmissions by 36%, preventable medical emergency room visits by 34, and preventable behavioral health emergency visits by 47% among our patient pool.

**About SOMOS Community Care:**

[SOMOS Community Care](#) is a non-profit, physician-led network of nearly 2,000 health care providers serving over 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in New York City. Launched in 2015 by its Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj, SOMOS Community Care is the largest and only physician-led performance provider system participating in the New York State Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP). The SOMOS network includes providers delivering culturally competent care to patients in some of New York City's most vulnerable populations, particularly Latino, Asian, African-American and immigrant communities throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.

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