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## **SOMOS APPLAUDS GOVERNOR CUOMO'S 2020 STATE OF THE STATE**

**New York, NY** – Following Governor Cuomo's 2020 State of the State address today, SOMOS Founder and Chairman of the Board Dr. Ramon Tallaj released the following statement in response to the governor's agenda:

"Governor Cuomo has made great strides to transform health care in our state, and we applaud efforts announced today to help give New Yorkers the highest quality health care available. From making medication more affordable and easily accessible to addressing the harmful vaping and opioid crises, Governor Cuomo has once again displayed New York State's unwavering leadership in the broad realm of healthcare issues.

"In moving to ban all flavored nicotine vaping products including menthol flavors and restricting vaping advertisements aimed at youth, Governor Cuomo is tackling the root cause of vaping head – especially among young people. The Governor's proposal to also ban dangerous and life-threatening fentanyl analogs and expand access to medication assisted treatment for opioid abuse disorder in hard-to-reach communities strengthens and recommits New York's fight against the opioid crisis. And the Governor's proposed cap on insulin co-payments will help to alleviate the burden of sky-rocketing drug prices and improve the lives of so many New Yorkers battling the chronic fight against diabetes.

"New Yorkers deserve a state government that fights to protect them from harm and helps to create healthier communities. We look forward to continuing to work with state officials to bring these measures to fruition throughout New York City's most vulnerable and immigrant communities."

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### **About SOMOS:**

SOMOS is a non-profit, physician-led network of over 2,500 health care providers serving over 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in New York City. Launched in 2015 by its Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj, SOMOS 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.