**SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

As [COUNTY OFFICIAL], I am writing to express concern over local impact of proposed federal budget changes that would significantly reduce to funding New York for Medicaid and nutrition assistance (SNAP). These changes would have a disproportionate fiscal impact on New York State, and particularly on its counties, who administer many of these programs.

The House budget proposal includes an annual reduction of approximately **$13.5 billion in federal funding** for Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in New York. According to the New York State Department of Health, **up to 1.4 million New Yorkers** could lose health insurance coverage. This would reverse more than a decade of progress in reducing the state's uninsured rate and place significant additional strain on hospitals.

Additionally, the proposal would require county agencies to conduct more frequent eligibility redeterminations. These administrative mandates would increase workload and processing times, leading to disruptions in coverage—particularly for older adults, people with disabilities, and residents in rural areas.

The proposed budget also reneges on the federal government’s traditional commitment of paying 100 percent of program cost of SNAP and splitting the administrative cost of SNAP 50/50 with states. Their proposed changes will place an additional **$2.3 billion dollar** financial burden New York and our local taxpayers.

Counties do not have the fiscal capacity to absorb increased costs from federal cuts in Medicaid or SNAP, let alone both, without making our own cuts to essential services or raising local taxes.

If enacted, these changes would represent one of the most significant shifts of federal responsibility to local governments in recent history. The financial and operational pressures placed on counties would be immediate and far-reaching, with direct consequences for residents who rely on core health and nutrition services. The long-term implications for public health, service delivery, and county budgets across New York would be substantial and difficult to reverse.

We need our representatives in Congress to stand up for New York and reject these devastating cuts to programs that our children, seniors and most vulnerable citizens depend on.

Sincerely,
[NAME]
[TITLE, COUNTY]