



PHYSICIANS FOR  
A NATIONAL  
HEALTH  
PROGRAM



NEW YORK  
METRO  
CHAPTER

*PNHP – NY Metro Monthly Forum:*

## **Caring for the Incarcerated: Will a Single-Payer System Protect the Rights of the Most Vulnerable?**

**Tuesday, May 21, from 7:30 - 9:00 PM**

**Mt. Sinai Med School - Annenberg Rm. 12-01 - 1468 Madison Avenue (between 99th & 101st Sts.)**

All PNHP-NY Metro forums are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE.



At a time of growing support for universal health care, both in New York State and the nation, one group continues to be left out: our incarcerated population. This forum will explore healthcare reform from a racial justice perspective and its intersection with criminal justice reform. We will discuss how a universal, single-payer system would impact the health & wellbeing of our most vulnerable populations.

Currently, there are 2.2 million incarcerated people in prisons and jails across our country who receive healthcare directly from a prison or jail. Federal policy prohibits payment of Medicaid and Medicare dollars to such facilities. The system's devaluing of the lives of incarcerated people, largely rooted in racism, has caused grave consequences including gaps and delays in care and treatment disruption. The quality of care is uneven, inconsistent and compromised -- and it's not subject to the same healthcare standards as in the outside world. Additionally, solitary confinement, a ubiquitous form of cruel punishment, has serious mental health implications and its use for more than 15 continuous days has been banned by the United Nations as torture. Women have a whole set of specific healthcare-related needs that are not met or are subpar, including maternal and newborn health.

### **Panel:**

- **Five Mualimm-ak**, *Co-Founder/CEO, Incarcerated Nation Corporation*
- **Zach Rosner, MD**, *H&H Assistant Chief of Medical Services, Correctional Health Services (Rikers)*
- **Anisah Sabur-Mumin**, *Survivor Leadership Coach & Coordinator for the Coalition for Women Prisoners,*

*STEPS to End Family Violence*

- **Ashwin Vasan, MD, MPH, PhD**, professor at Columbia U Medical Center and founding ED of Health Access Equity Unit at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**Moderator: Roona Ray, MD, MPH, AAHIVS**, Board Member, PNHP – NY Metro

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## **Upcoming NYC Single-Payer Support Events**

**Thursday, June 13 (6:00-9:00 PM) – PNHP – Celebrating Single-Payer Champions (annual gala)**, 1199/SEIU Penthouse. More info to come.

For more events, check the “Events” list at the Campaign for New York Health: [nyhcampaign.org](http://nyhcampaign.org) or email Bob Lederer at [bob@pnhpnymetro.org](mailto:bob@pnhpnymetro.org)



## **Take Action Now to Help Pass the New York Health Act!**

The NY Health Act was introduced this year with a majority of cosponsors in the Assembly. We are nearly at a majority in the Senate (29 out of 32). The only Senators in NYC who haven't yet signed on yet are newly elected state Senator Andrew Gounardes and former-IDC member Senator Diane Savino. On Long Island, newly elected state Senators Anna Kaplan, Monica Martinez, and James Gaughran. We need to keep the pressure up to get them to sign on, so **if you live in those districts, keep up the pressure by letting them know you want the NY Health Act** -- call their office, show up at town halls, drop in and tell your story. For a direct phone connection, go to [www.nyhcampaign.org](http://www.nyhcampaign.org) and scroll down to “Contact your State Senator and Assembly Member.”

**Now is the time to let Speaker Carl Heastie know** (district office: 718-654-6539) that New Yorkers want to see the Assembly continue its record of support for the NY Health Act by passing it for the 5th year in a row. Call and let the Assembly speaker know that it's critical he allow a vote in the Assembly this year.

**Continue calling Senator leader Andrea Stewart Cousins** (district office: 914-423-4031) asking her to allow

the Senate Health Committee to hold hearings across the state this spring on the NY Health Act, so we can continue the public discussion and forward movement of the NY Health Act through the legislative process.