



## Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD  
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 8, 2022

**BY E-MAIL**

Mary T. Bassett, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12237

Re: Notice of Departure

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I write to inform you of my departure as State Medicaid Director, effective May 27, 2022. After more than two and a half years serving the Department of Health (the “Department”), first as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Medicaid Counsel within the Office of Health Insurance Programs and then as State Medicaid Director, I am ready to explore new opportunities, but remain deeply proud of the work we have been able to accomplish together for New Yorkers, including:

- Ensuring that the Medicaid program has been able to provide comprehensive health coverage to the more than 1.4 million who joined the program since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic—growing to over 7.4 million New Yorkers, or approximately 38% of the State;
- Navigating a rapidly evolving federal landscape in order to chart a strategic future for the Medicaid program that expands access to services and supports to address historical health disparities and promote health equity; and
- Guiding us through these unique and uncertain times in order to provide a Medicaid program that is more innovative, responsive and financially sustainable for all of its stakeholders.

From the date of this letter until the date of my departure, I plan to begin using my accrued leave and transitioning responsibilities to Amir Bassiri. We are fortunate for Amir’s willingness to serve in this role, and I know he will continue our work in making the Medicaid program more equitable for our members. I will remain available to him during this period of time.

On a personal note, when I joined the Department in November 2019, I could not have imagined the challenging and important work that would lay ahead, nor did I think I would be able to witness the exceptional talent and dedication from my colleagues at the Department, and across State government. I am confident that the Department will only continue to grow stronger under your leadership, to the benefit of all of the people of New York.

Thank you for all that you do; the work is so very important to so many.

Very truly yours,



Brett R. Friedman

cc: Kristin Proud  
Diane Christensen  
Sam Miller  
Kyle Kotary  
Amir Bassiri