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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I write regarding the dire situation at the Rosa Coplon Living Center at Weinberg Campus (Weinberg) in the Town of Amherst. The closure is set to displace 120 patients and over 300 employees by the end of November. This decision has been met with community outcry and serious concerns from patients, families, providers, and other stakeholders. I echo their deep concern for the well-being of patients and staff. **I respectfully request that the state step in and take immediate action to prevent the closure of this facility and provide funding to support the receivership of the Rosa Coplon Living Center at the Weinberg Campus.**

Divestment from this facility and facilities like it have fueled the care crisis across the state: there are 5,600 fewer nursing home beds available today than there were in 2019. While recent Medicaid rate increases for nursing homes provided a long-overdue jump start for New York's ailing reimbursement system, for many operators, including Weinberg and the Rosa Coplon Center, that has not been enough to overcome the historic funding gaps and yearly deficits that COVID-19 further exacerbated. Closing another facility will only worsen this crisis as transferring residents will strain an already overburdened system. This will have a ripple effect throughout our long-term care and healthcare system, including many similar facilities that face dire financial situations themselves.

The closure will also deepen the existing care crisis in our community by forcing more than 300 skilled members of the healthcare workforce from their jobs. Support from the state for a receivership would bring the facility to sound financial standing and would cover critical wage and benefit expenses for staff. Lineage Care Group is willing to serve as receiver of the Rosa Coplon Living Center, contingent on state financial support. This funding will enable them to stabilize facility operations and continue to offer care to the facility's residents.

As an occupational therapist, I have seen firsthand the impacts of facility closures and the involuntary relocations that result from them, especially instances as sudden as this. It disrupts care, negatively impacts mental and physical health, and in the worst cases, some patients do not survive. New York

State must act in order to provide residents with the choice of remaining at the facility, which many have called home for decades.

Through your careful stewardship, New York's surplus fund is robust enough to support emergencies like this and meet the financial needs of the facility outlined by Lineage. **For these reasons, once again I respectfully request that the state step in and take immediate action to prevent the closure of this facility and provide funding to support the receivership of the Rosa Coplon Living Center at the Weinberg Campus.** Without action, the closure of this facility will directly hurt residents and, more broadly, harm Western New York's economy and healthcare system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to advancing our shared mission of creating a healthcare system that supports all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress (NY-26)