



# Healthcare Policy Roundup

September 11, 2018

## REMINDERS:

- 1) **The New York State Primary is this Thursday, September 13th**—don't forget to vote! There are races for Governor, Attorney General, and a host of hotly contested state Senate seats. The primary victors are almost certain to win the general election in November.
- 2) **The General Election is November 6, 2018.** New York residents must be registered by October 12th 2018 to vote. Click [here](#) to register to vote. If you are not a New York resident, click [here](#) to find out your state's voter registration deadline.

## Catch the Highlights!

- *First Lady McCray launches new initiative aimed at ending gender-based violence*
- *State extends workers' compensation filing period for 9/11 responders*
- *House Republicans urge colleagues to reauthorize legislation protecting victims of domestic violence*

## Questions? Comments?

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## City launches initiative to end gender-based violence:

The New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence will expand to include the Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) according to First Lady Chirlane McCray last week. McCray's announcement responds to an executive order signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio establishing the office and mandating coordinated efforts to address domestic and gender-based violence throughout the city.



Under the new mandate, the ENDGBV office will expand services for survivors of sexual assault, family violence, and human trafficking; enhance trainings for city officials and community members; launch a citywide outreach team; and develop a strategic plan for addressing domestic and gender-based violence. The mandate will also create an advisory committee to examine data on GBV fatalities and develop recommendations for intervention.

The new initiative echoes larger efforts to tackle issues of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the state. Last week, Governor Cuomo announced \$5 million towards the State University of New York's (SUNY) "Got Your Back" Program which distributes comfort bags containing personal care items and support resources to victims of domestic and gender-based violence. Last year, domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines received over 369,000 calls throughout New York State. New York City's domestic hotline (1-800-621-HOPE) receives 80,000 calls annually.

## Cuomo extends workers' compensation period for 9/11 responders:

This morning, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced legislation that would extend the compensation filing period for workers and volunteers involved in the rescue, recovery, and cleanup of the September 11th attacks. The bill, which was announced on the 17th anniversary of the attacks, will allow workers more time to file a Notice of Participation for lost wage and medical benefits as a result of those efforts.



Speaking this morning, Governor Cuomo noted: "This bill rightly and fairly provides 9/11's brave recovery workers and volunteers the time they need to receive the health benefits and compensation they deserve." In 2016, Governor Cuomo extended the period for responders to register under the World Trade Center Disability Law from 9/11/16 to 9/11/18. Today's legislation extends that deadline through September 11, 2022. The bill also protects claims filed on or before September 11, 2022 if the disability occurred between 9/11/15 and 9/11/17.

Responders are also eligible to participate in the World Trade Center Health Program which monitors and treats health conditions at zero cost. The program, authorized under the Zadroga Act, is administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and is funded for 75 years. As of June 2018, over 71,000 responders and 16,000 survivors are enrolled in the program.

## Congress seeks to reauthorize Violence Against Women Act:

Nearly 50 House Republicans are calling on House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which recognizes domestic violence as a serious crime and provides funding for domestic violence programs. The legislation, which was established in 1994 under the Clinton Administration, is set to expire in seven legislative days.

The Act has been reauthorized three times since its enactment despite opposition from House Republicans in 2013 after new protections were added for Native Americans, LGBT individuals, and undocumented immigrants. The newly proposed bill, introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) in July, includes new provisions that would help domestic violence victims maintain stable housing and prohibit persons convicted of domestic violence from possessing firearms.

In a letter spearheaded by Representative John Katko (R-NY), House Republicans called on conservative lawmakers to consider a "bipartisan measure" to reauthorize legislation saying: "We must work across the aisle to reauthorize this important measure so we can continue to save lives, protect children, and prevent future victims of domestic and sexual violence." Earlier this week, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo echoed calls to action to reauthorize the bill which supports over 20,000 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in New York each year.



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