

How **H.R. 1** Threatens the Health and Wellbeing of Asian American New Yorkers



What Is H.R.1 and Why It Matters

H.R. 1 — also known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” — is a sweeping federal legislation that delivers tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, boosts the detention budget of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by 308%, and slashes Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, and other key safety-net programs.

In New York, it could strip health insurance from 1.5 million people (7.5% of the population), reduce funding for hospitals and nonprofits, and cost the State \$14 billion in reduced federal healthcare dollars. Asian American communities — including children, immigrant families, seniors, health care workers and college students — would be especially harmed.

Why the Cuts in H.R 1 Matter to Asian Communities in New York

We are the fastest growing racial group in the state

2.1M

IN NEW YORK STATE

1.5M

IN NEW YORK CITY

63%

OF ASIAN RESIDENTS ARE FOREIGN-BORN IN NEW YORK STATE

with many living in mixed-status households that include undocumented family members

And we make up

17%

OF NEW YORK CITY

Asian Americans are essential to the city's health care system, small business sector, and other frontline industries

In NYC

34%

LIVE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

NEARLY

90%

OF ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN LIVE WITH AT LEAST ONE IMMIGRANT PARENT

Deep cuts to Medicaid, the Essential Plan, and food assistance in the bill, combined with increased barriers to accessing benefits, does much more than harm individual families. They erode the very systems that hold our communities together.

A Surge in Immigration Enforcement Puts Asian New Yorkers at Risk

H.R. 1 represents the biggest expansion of interior immigration enforcement in U.S. history, allocating over \$75 billion through 2029 to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This infusion of funds will make ICE the largest law-enforcement body in U.S. history.

This shift also emphasizes detention and deportation over legal pathways, humanitarian relief, and due process — and could have severe consequences for Asian communities in New York City.

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing population in NYS, with 24% of immigrants from Asia living without status. Many live in mixed-status households and work in raid-prone sectors, such as restaurants and other service industries.

24%

**OF UNAUTHORIZED
IMMIGRANTS IN
NEW YORK STATE
ARE FROM ASIA**

- ICE's expanded powers and increased detention capacity raise the risk of sudden arrests, workplace raids, and family separations, even for long-time residents. Arrests of immigrants from Asian countries like China, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India are already rising compared to last year.
- Fear of ICE can keep people from using city services, seeking medical care, and reporting crimes, undermining public health and safety. During Trump 1.0, anti-immigrant policies sharply reduced SNAP and other benefit use among eligible Asian families.
- While NYC's sanctuary policies offer some protection, more federal funding for ICE could increase enforcement in nearby areas, endangering Asian New Yorkers who travel or work outside the city.
- Legal aid systems are already stretched and could be overwhelmed by more detention and deportation cases. Children of undocumented Asian immigrants face deep stress and instability, especially if caregivers are taken.
- H.R. 1 isn't just a policy shift — it's a direct threat to the safety, stability, and dignity of Asian American families in New York.

Asian American Asylum Seekers and Mixed Status Families Face Increased Barriers to Citizenship

- One in seven undocumented immigrants is Asian. They will now face a mandatory \$5,000 fee for failure to appear at court hearings.
- Asians are the largest group of new green card holders in the last decade and now face high fees of \$1,500 to adjust their green card status and \$1,050 waivers of inadmissibility fees.



Asian American Asylum Seekers and Mixed Status Families Face Increased Barriers to Citizenship (cont'd)



- Asians are the largest refugee and asylum populations. People who have fled danger and have limited resources will now face steep costs: \$1,000 for asylum, \$100 in annual fees for pending cases, \$550 for work permits, and \$900 to appeal or file motions.
- 62% of Asian New Yorkers are foreign-born. All visas now carry a \$250 fee and I-94 foreign visitors must pay \$30 to enter and exit the U.S.
- A new 1% tax on non-bank transfers will affect one in four Asian Americans who send remittances to support family members abroad.

Impact on Asian New Yorkers Using Medicaid/Essential Plan

H.R. 1 adds work requirements (approx. 80 hours/month) and burdensome paperwork, which may make it difficult to get coverage or stay covered — even for eligible individuals.

38%

OF ASIANS IN
NYS ARE LOW-
ENGLISH-
PROFICIENT

With nearly 38% of Asians in New York State being limited-English-proficient and nearly 25% of Asian Americans in the state lacking wireline broadband, the paperwork could be especially challenging for our communities.

The Essential Plan, a critical option for low-income and immigrant New Yorkers, will lose federal funding, stripping away health insurance from 730,000 New Yorkers, including many Asian Americans, starting January 1, 2026.

An estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers may lose insurance in the next decade.

This includes over 224,000 immigrant enrollees in the Essential Plan, who are not “poor enough” for Medicaid but also not eligible for private plans, according to state health officials.

Asian American Families and Children will Lose Access to Care

H.R. 1 cuts funding for SNAP and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program), which helps support food security and healthcare for children.

- With cuts to CHIP, many Asian children in NYS may lose access to regular doctor visits, preventive care, and prescriptions, which could be harmful to the almost 36% of all Asian children who live in or near poverty in the state.
- Cuts to SNAP will put children and families at greater risk of food insecurity.

40%

OF ALL ASIAN HOUSEHOLDS
IN NYS — LED BY A CITIZEN
AND LIVING IN POVERTY —
RELY ON SNAP BENEFITS



Increased Barriers to Care for Asian Immigrants and Seniors

45%

OF OLDER ASIAN NEW YORKERS IN NYC LIVE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

- Older Asian New Yorkers, 70% with limited English proficiency and 45% in or near poverty in NYC, will be hit hardest by new work and documentation rules. Language barriers, lack of digital access, and paperwork challenges will make it especially tough navigating these changes.

- The bill expands work requirements to age 64 for SNAP recipients who are Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). Older Asian adults risk losing food aid due to difficulty proving employment, illness, or disability, or caregiving duties. Additionally, many seniors may find it difficult to find a job because of age discrimination.
- Asian New Yorkers up to age 64 may also lose Medicaid or Essential Plan coverage if they can't meet the new rules. Undocumented elders relying on the Essential Plan could be left entirely uninsured, with no clear alternatives for care.

Healthcare Job Loss will Hit Asian American Workers and Patients



HEALTHCARE IS A TOP INDUSTRY, EMPLOYING NEARLY

17%

OF ASIANS IN NYS

H.R. 1 threatens 34,000 hospital-related jobs statewide, including nearly 3,000 in the Bronx, where many Asian American healthcare workers live and work.

Asian healthcare workers not only serve as doctors, nurses, and techs but also provide crucial language access and cultural competency. Cutting this workforce raises healthcare barriers for patients with limited English proficiency.

- Safety net hospitals serving immigrant and low-income communities will face budget shortfalls, layoffs, service cuts, strain on emergency capacity, and possible closures, creating further job loss.
- Some hospitals may raise costs for other patients to make up lost revenue, increasing overall medical care costs.

Reduced Educational Opportunities for Asian American Students

H.R. 1 includes cuts to Pell Grants and caps on federal student loans, making college less affordable.

- There are 99,311 Asian students of college age in New York State. Many may be forced to delay or drop out of higher education due to cuts in financial aid.

47%

OF ASIAN AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS NATIONWIDE CURRENTLY RECEIVE FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

