Advocates look to move bill concerning Health Care Transformation dollars

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Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) joined advocates representing nearly two dozen community health care organizations today in urging the Legislature to pass bills, NY A7977 (19R) / NY S6376 (19R), requiring Health Care Transformation Fund dollars to be allocated to community-based care providers.

Gottfried, who chairs the Assembly Health Committee, said that although the legislation has yet to see much action — with just one day left in the session — it could move because it does not seek any new revenue.

The bill would require that at least 25 percent of the funds deposited into the health care transformation fund be allocated for certain community-based health care providers on an annual basis.

Gottfried acknowledged that HCTF dollars could be allocated without the legislation, but said "in reality, that virtually never happens without legislative direction."

The HCTF, enacted as part of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget, requires funds to be used to support care delivery, including capital investment, debt retirement or restructuring, housing and other social determinants of health, advocates noted.