



The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

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Press Release

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Unnecessary tax remains part of the Assembly budget proposal

ALBANY – The Assembly’s \$160 billion spending plan shows a lack of commitment to truly decreasing health care costs in New York State.

The Assembly plan includes a \$69 million tax added by the Governor to cover the cost of operating New York’s Health Insurance Exchange. While provisions were made in an effort to shield small businesses from the additional costs, the tax, itself, is still unnecessary.

“The problem with the Assembly proposal is that it is a continuation of the New York Legislature’s pattern of increasing costs related to health care,” said Pamela Reese Finch, executive director of The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care. “At the end of the day, this is still another new tax in New York State, and worse, a tax that is necessary. New York already collects \$5 billion in taxes on health insurance that could be used to offset the cost of the exchange. We are hopeful that New York’s leadership will consider this as an option to cover the cost of operating the exchange rather than increasing New York’s already heavy tax burden.”

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is a coalition of more than 3,100 small business owners and sole proprietors who believe that everyone should have access to basic, affordable health insurance.

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The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is a coalition of more than 3,100 employers and individuals from across New York, representing more than 200,000 working New Yorkers, committed to preserving quality affordable health care.