



The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

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MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill Number: A. 336 (Gottfried)/ S.1157 (Hannon)

An act to amend the public health law, in relation to requirements for collective negotiations by health care providers with certain health benefit plans

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is the largest, single-issue grassroots coalition in New York State. Our members including more than 3,000 small business owners and sole proprietors representing more than 150,000 working New Yorkers. Our members believe that everyone should have access to basic, affordable health insurance. We oppose state mandate legislation that drives up costs.

WE OPPOSE THIS MANDATE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- This door should not be opened. Collective bargaining would essentially allow doctors to engage in price fixing, to the detriment of consumers and putting patient care at risk.
- As independent contractors, doctors already have a great deal of flexibility in deciding what insurance with which plans they will contract. They also have the option to join a large group practice with greater bargaining power.
- Controlling costs is the key to providing affordable health care. This is achieved through negotiations. Reducing the competitive nature of healthcare will increase costs. According to a survey by the National Small Business Association¹, small employers ranked cost the number one factor in determining whether or not they offer health insurance.
- This bill is counter-productive to federal reform efforts. New York's small business community is continuing to adjust to the changes brought on by federal reform. The legislature must refrain from making any additional changes without fully understanding the implications of such actions.

¹

Source: <http://www.nsba.biz/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Health-Care-Survey-2014.pdf>

**For these reasons, the Employer Alliance asks you
to OPPOSE S.1157/A.336**

April 16, 2015