

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Single payer system will hurt most New Yorkers**

*A statement from Pamela Reese Finch, executive director*

**Albany** – A single payer health care system for New York State was a bad idea last year and it remains a bad idea this year.

Single payer health care, as proposed by A.5062/A.3525 titled the New York Health Plan, relies on new taxes, increasing existing taxes and hurts hardworking New Yorkers and small businesses that are already struggling.

Vermont, which touted itself as the first state to pass landmark legislation establishing the nation's first single payer system, ultimately derailed the plan citing extraordinary costs including large tax increases for residents and businesses. At the federal level, discussions of a single payer system rely on a suite of new taxes, including a "premium" applied to all income, a new payroll tax paid by employers and a variety of tax increases on the wealthiest—spending \$14 trillion over ten years with promise of "saving" \$6 trillion over that same period.

Any way you look at it, the numbers just don't add up. And talking about taxing New Yorkers for a single payer system at the same time as the state considers raising the minimum wage and mandating paid family leave is a prescription for disaster for New York's small businesses.

Putting any consideration into an initiative that's already been proven as cost-prohibitive is a bad use of our legislative resources. Affordable health insurance is a critical issue for the state's business community. We urge our elected officials to focus on viable measures to make health care more affordable – not over burdensome plans that will financially bankrupt taxpayers and the business community.

*The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care represents more than 3,100 small and medium-sized businesses throughout New York State. Our members focus on educating state lawmakers and advocating for state-level change. To learn more about The Employer Alliance, visit [www.employeralliance.com](http://www.employeralliance.com)*