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Cost should be enough to stop the Single Payer discussion

Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care Says Measure Will Hurt Small Businesses

ALBANY – The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care today called the New York State Assembly vote in favor of the New York Health Act single payer bill a slap in the face of small businesses across the state.

“Small businesses are vital to the state economy and employer-sponsored coverage helps small businesses attract and retain skilled employees,” said Larry Teal, chair of the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care board of directors. “Small businesses do not support a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to health insurance. Especially when it would take away the ability of employers and their employees to choose the health care coverage that is right for them and result in higher taxes and lost jobs.”

Funding for the New York Health program would come from a combination of new and existing taxes. According to a report from The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, the New York Health Act “would require approximately **\$226 billion in new tax revenue per year**, nearly quadrupling the state’s tax burden. This, in turn, would result in **the loss of 175,000 jobs**, at a minimum, as high-wage, high-value industries move to neighboring states.

Other states have considered single payer options only to determine it is simply too expensive to be practical. Last year Colorado voters overwhelmingly rejected plans for a single payer system, which had a reported estimated cost of more than 140 percent of the total state budget. 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 “the potential economic disruption and risks would be too great to small businesses, working families and the state’s economy.”

“Health care costs should be controlled, but single payer is not the right solution. New York simply cannot afford a single payer system,” said Teal.