

### The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

## 2004/05 Legislative Report Card



#### January 2006

#### Dear Employer Alliance Member:



As president of Leland Paper Company in Glens Falls, I know how rising insurance rates make it difficult for business to survive in a stagnant economy. I am deeply concerned about the impact that rising health insurance costs are having on the 75% of New Yorkers who work for small and

medium-sized businesses. Skyrocketing premiums are not simply a matter of economics. While there are many reasons for increasing health care costs – one thing we can all agree upon is that our elected officials should not do anything to exacerbate this problem.

Last year, I succeeded founder Scott Miller as chair of the Employer Alliance for Affordable Heath Care. Scott started the Employer Alliance in 1997 with a half a dozen members. Today, with 2,400 activitists – we are largest-single issue grassroots business coalition in New York State and we continue to remain focused on a single purpose – to oppose state-legislated mandates that drive up health insurance costs.

The on-going success of the Employer Alliance is rooted in our members. As chair of this organization, I intend to devote my efforts to making the Alliance an even more effective voice in Albany for small and medium businesses that are struggling to compete in our global economy. The Alliance is committed to working with you and our growing membership to facilitate our advocacy efforts in Albany.

By the end of 2005, the Employer Alliance reported the following advocacy successes:

- \* We remained at the forefront of the fight to ensure not a single health insurance mandate was passed by the Legislature. While faced with nearly 100 mandate proposals, the Legislature adjourned the 2005 session without passing any new health insurance mandates. Our efforts saved millions of dollars in additional premiums paid by businesses in New York State.
- \* Alliance members met directly with lawmakers, providing our members with a chance to be heard. YOU told them how difficult it is to pay for health insurance. Educating lawmakers on the hardship of health insurance costs has enhanced our legislative efforts in Albany.

- \* We achieved our membership goals, adding nearly one new member a day. Recruitment efforts paid off. By the end of the year we added more than 300 members, bringing our total membership to more than 2,400.
- \* We sent thousands of communications to lawmakers through our website and direct mail. Many of our members became "cyber-activists" delivering thousands letters and e-mails to their lawmakers telling them not to pass any legislation that could increase their health care costs. Hundreds more utilized our postcard campaigns to drive our message home.
- \* We continue to build our media presence and have established ourselves as an important voice in the debate on affordability. The Employer Alliance is the primary source for information pertaining to issue of health insurance mandates and small business. Stories about our members, letters to the editor, and other articles appear regularly in newspapers throughout the state.

Despite our recent successes, the fight for affordable health insurance continues. 2006 is a statewide election year in which every seat in state government is up for grabs. Election years historically result in a higher percentage of bills passing, as legislators hustle to curry favor with voters in their district. This environment presents an even greater challenge to our advocacy efforts.

In the upcoming months, the Employer Alliance will need the effort of every single member to carry our fight to the state capital. We will be calling on each of you in the very near future to lend a hand by contacting your local politicians and contributing to the Alliance so we can continue these important efforts. We hope you will be there to answer the call and play an active role in keeping premiums affordable in New York.

Sincerely,

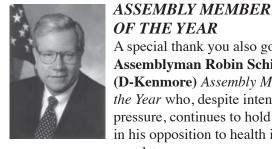
Jeff Leland Chair

#### **Legislators of the Year**



THE YEAR The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care recognizes Senate Insurance Committee Chair James L. Seward (R-Oneonta) as Senator of the Year.

SENATOR OF



OF THE YEAR A special thank you also goes out to **Assemblyman Robin Schimminger** (**D-Kenmore**) Assembly Member of the Year who, despite intense political pressure, continues to hold steadfast in his opposition to health insurance mandates.



SENATOR OF **DISTINCTION** The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care recognizes Senator Raymond A. Meier (R-C-Utica) as a Senator of Distinction.

These legislators remained steadfast in their opposition to all mandates – no matter what conditions may be attached to such an effort.

#### 2004-05 "A List"

Congratulations to the following lawmakers for earning a cumulative grade of an "A-" or greater through your votes in these past two sessions. We appreciate your support in keeping health insurance premiums affordable for small business owners and sole proprietors in New York State.

#### 2004/05 "A List" Alphabetical by last name

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM BACALLES 136th District, Steuben and Yates counties

ASSEMBLYMEMBER WILLIAM A. BARCLAY 12th District, Onondaga and Oswego counties

SENATOR NEIL D. BRESLIN 46th District, Albany County

JOSEPH L. BRUNO 43rd District, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties

SENATOR JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO 50th District, Onondaga County

SENATOR MARTIN J. GOLDEN 22nd District, Brooklyn County

SENATOR OWEN H. JOHNSON 4th District, Suffolk County

SENATOR VINCENT L. LEIBELL III 40th District, Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties

ELIZABETH O'C LITTLE 45th District, Clinton Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington counties

SENATOR SERPHIN R. MALTESE 15th District, Queens County

SENATOR THOMAS P. MORAHAN 38th District, Rockland and Orange counties

SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO 54th District, Seneca, Wayne, Monroe, Tompkins, Ontario and Cayuga counties

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BOB OAKS 128th District, Oswego, Wayne and Cayuga counties

SENATOR GEORGE ONORATO 12th District, Queens County

SENATOR SUZI OPPENHEIMER 37th District, Westchester County

SENATOR MARY LOU RATH 61st District, Erie and Genesee counties

SENATOR STEPHEN M. SALAND 41st District, Columbia and Dutchess counties

SENATOR JOHN L. SAMPSON 19th District, Kings County

SENATOR DEAN G. SKELOS 9th District, Nassau County

SENATOR CAESAR TRUNZO 3rd District, Suffolk County

SENATOR DALE M. VOLKER 59th District, Wyoming, Erie, Livingston and Ontario counties

SENATOR JAMES W. WRIGHT 48th District, Jefferson, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties

#### UNDERSTANDING THE ASSEMBLY VOTING RECORD

In recent years, we have seen a growing recognition in the state Legislature that mandating additional benefits to health policies in New York increase premiums and ultimately contribute to New York's chronic uninsured population (now hovering around 2.8 million). This is due, in large part, to our steadfast efforts. While the number of mandates introduced each session remains steady (about 100), there has not been a single new mandate passed in New York since 2002. This is good for our cause, but presents a unique challenge as we strive for fair and accurate grading. This year we compiled voting records from two consecutive legislative years to provide a single cumulative score for your elected officials. We felt basing a grade on a single year – especially when so few mandate bills were brought to a vote - was unfair to lawmakers and more important, failed to give our members an accurate view of their legislator's overall position on this issue.

The Assembly voted on four health insurance mandates that were critical to our members the past two years. In 2004, two of these bills pertained to an unlimited mental

health services mandate. A third bill required coverage of wigs. In 2005 the Assembly voted on only a single bill of concern to the Alliance – when the Assembly again revisited the issue of an unlimited mental health services mandate.

#### HOW LEGISLATORS WERE GRADED

For the purposes of grading this report card, every lawmaker began the year with an "A." That grade could change depending on a lawmaker's votes, bill introduction records, sponsorship of mandate reform legislation and overall understanding of the issue. Since our goal is to educate legislators on this issue and not to unduly penalize, no lawmaker received a grade lower than D-.

In the cumulative grade, the year with multiple mandate votes holds greater weight than years when only a single bill was voted upon. Legislators that were absent for two or more votes received an incomplete (INC).

#### **Review of Legislation**

#### ASSEMBLY BILLS VOTED ON IN 2004

BILL NUMBER: A.8301 SPONSOR: TONKO OUR POSITION: NO

FINAL ACTION: PASSED ASSEMBLY. DIED IN

THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE.

#### Background on Proposal:

This mandate requires the coverage of unlimited mental health & substance abuse services.

#### The Employer Alliance opposes this legislation because:

- ❖ Cost of this mandate is expected to exceed 3% at a time when health care costs are already climbing three to four times the rate of inflation.
- ❖ In comparison to most physical illnesses, mental illness and particularly substance abuse treatments have poor outcomes. Providing unlimited mental health benefits will come at a high cost to the health care system.
- The unlimited nature of this proposal will encourage the "worried well" to seek treatments that may not be necessary.

- Most New Yorkers are provided a compassionate benefit that includes 30-days inpatient and 20 out patient visits for mental illness.
- The burden of this mandate will fall disproportionately on small business. Corporations that are large enough to self-insure are not required to cover state mandates. In New York this loophole would exclude 49% of employer with health insurance from offering mental health coverage, placing the financial burden on businesses least able to afford these services.

BILL NUMBER: AMENDMENT TO A.8301

SPONSOR: BARRAGA

OUR POSITION: YES

FINAL ACTION: AMENDMENT FAILED

#### **Background on Proposal:**

This amendment would exempt businesses with fewer than 50 employees from the provisions of A.8301.

#### The Employer Alliance supported this legislation because:

❖ We believe that a small group exemption would be a monumental first step by the Assembly to recognize the hardship that health insurance mandates are placing on small businesses.

BILL NUMBER: A.3713

SPONSOR: CYMBROWITZ

OUR POSITION: NO

FINAL ACTION: PASSED ASSEMBLY

(DIED SENATE INSURANCE

COMMITTEE)

#### **Background on Proposal**

This mandate would require every policy to cover the cost of "cranial prostheses" (wigs) for permanent or temporary hair loss that is the result of a disease or treatments for a condition if a physician determines such purchase is necessary to promote the patient's "psychological well-being."

#### The Employer Alliance opposes this legislation because:

- Other prosthesis like legs and arms are designed to augment physical functioning. Wigs are cosmetic enhancements.
- The State of Washington issued a review on similar legislation and concluded: "it is not possible to find health, social or economic benefit to the general population from requiring health plans to cover payment for these devices."

Mandating coverage to enhance the "psychological well-being" of the patient is an unprecedented standard that logically could be extended to include the coverage of such items as vacations.

#### ASSEMBLY BILLS VOTED ON IN 2005

BILL NUMBER: A.2912 SPONSOR: **TONKO** OUR POSITION:

NO

FINAL ACTION: PASSED ASSEMBLY. DIED IN

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

#### Background on Proposal:

This mandate requires the coverage of unlimited mental health & substance abuse services.

#### The Employer Alliance opposes this legislation because:

- Cost of this mandate is expected to exceed 3% at a time when health care costs are already climbing three to four times the rate of inflation.
- In comparison to most physical illnesses, mental illness and particularly substance abuse treatments have poor outcomes. Providing unlimited mental health benefits will come at a high cost to the health care system.
- ❖ The unlimited nature of this proposal will encourage the "worried well" to seek treatments that may not be necessary.

- Most New Yorkers are provided a compassionate benefit that includes 30-days inpatient and 20 out patient visits for mental illness.
- \* The burden of this mandate will fall disproportionately on small business. Corporations that are large enough to self-insure are not required to cover state mandates. In New York this loophole would exclude 49% of employers with health insurance from offering mental health coverage, placing the financial burden on businesses least able to afford these services.



# Assembly Voting Record



	Legislator	OUR PUSITION	Acampora (R)	Thiele (R)	Eddington (D)	Englebright (D)	Fields (D)	Ramos (D)	Fitzpatrick (R)	Barraga (R)	Raia (R)	Conte (R)	Sweeney (D)	Saladino (R)	Lavine (D)	Barra (R)	Walker (R)
DISTRICT			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2004- Mental Health Mandate (A.8301)		N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	NA	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	
2004- Small Group Exemption/MHPA.8301)		Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	NA	N	Υ	ABS	Υ	ABS	N			Υ	
2004- Wig Health Mandate (A.3713)		N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	
2004 Grade			B-	B-	D-	D-	INC	C-	В	С	В	С	D-	NA	NA	B-	NA
2005 - Mental Health Mandate (A.2912)		N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
2005 Grade			B-	B-	В	В	В	В	А	A+	В	В	В	B+	В	C+	NA
CUMULATIVE GRADE 2004-05			B-	B-	C-	C-	INC	C-	B+	В	В	C+	C-	INC	INC	В	INC
MANDATE BILLS SPONSORED Black= Bills introduced in 2004 Red = Bills introduced in 2005		A	A.1546; A.6820	A.1914; A.3852									A.2404			A.3719; A.6163 A.4755	
BILL DESCRIPTION			<b>●</b>		lood Transfu Lyme Diseas								•	<mark>mplants afte</mark>	r mastectom  Autologe Expande	ous bone traned mastector	nsplants ny
COMMENTS							Lead floor c	debates agai	nst mandate	s •					Co-sponsor o egislation (A.	f mandate re 6193)	form

(a) ilonahid	O'Connell (R)	Hill-Hooper (D)	McDonough (R)	Weisenberg (D)	Alfano (R)	Meng (D)	Pheffer (D)	Weprin (D)	McLaughlin (D)	Carrozza (D)	Mayersohn (D)	Hevesi (D)	Scarborough (D)	Markey (D)	Titus (D)	Cook (D)	Clark (D)	Lafayette (D)	Aubry (D)	Gianaris (D)	Nolan (D)	Seminerio (D)	Peralta (D)	Gordon (D)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	Υ	N	Υ	N			N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
D-	В	D	В	D	С	NA	D-	D	D	D-	D	NA	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D-	D	D	D	D
Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS		ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ
D-	В	В	B+	В	В	В	C+	В	В	C+	INC	NA	INC	В	В	B-	В	В	В	B-	В	INC	В	B+
D-	В	C-	B+	C-	C+	INC	D+	C-	C-	D+	INC	INC	INC	C-	C-	C-	C-	C-	C-	D+	C-	INC	C-	С
A.388 A.282 A.392 A.145 A.408 A.420 A.605	4 9; 7 4; 7 8;						A.5203; A.669 A.5204; A.698			A.4715; A.5240 A.7927 A.4922						A.9066				A.2607; A.4023				
A.316 A.666 A.672	1. Osto 2. Mate 3. Anat 4. Baby 5. Expa 6. Unlir	mies ernity costs omical path oformula nded prosta nited hospit nded ovaria  Rankin health cha	ology service te testing al stays n cancer so	ces creening		ate reform		1. Autism 2. CA-25 te	est	•-[	1. Expande 2. Expande	ed podiatric ed mammo	c benefits ogram man	date		•-[	Dieticians				Resprite Car	date reform	(A.3449)	_
		demonstra knowledg on issues	ates																					

Legislator	OUR POSITION	Weinstein (D)	Jacobs (D)	Camara (D)	Brennan (D)	Cymbrowitz (D)	Cohen (D)	Colton (D)	Hikind (D)	Abbate, Jr. (D)	Lentol (D)	Ortiz (D)	Millman (D)	Lopez (D)	Towns (D)	Boyland Jr. (D)	Robinson (D)
DISTRICT		41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
2004- Mental Health Mandate (A.8301)	N	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
2004- Small Group Exemption/MHPA.8301)	Υ	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ABS	N	N	ABS
2004- Wig Health Mandate (A.3713)	N	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
2004 Grade		D-	D-	NA	D	D-	D-	D-	D	D	D	D-	D	С	D	D	С
2005 - Mental Health Mandate (A.2912)	N	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ
2005 Grade		B-	С	NA	В	C+	B-	B-	В	INC	В	B-	В	В	INC	В	В
CUMULATIVE GRADE 2004-05		D+	D	INC	C-	D	D+	D+	C-	NA	C-	D+	C-	C+	NA	C-	C+
MANDATE BILLS SPONSORED Black= Bills introduced in 2004 Red = Bills introduced in 2005		A.4621; A.5850	A.529; A.986 A.2748; A.1175 A.8614; A.857			A.3713; A.132 A.9500; A.1813	A.9208; A.5003	A.10453; A.7715			A.4527	S.6620; A.2124					
BILL DESCRIPTION		<b>●</b> [C		. Audio exan . TMJ servic	ns es	2	. Wigs . Prosthetics	P P ymphedema	rosthetics		• [	Expands chi		ition therapy	]		
COMMENTS			3	. Smoking c	essation pro	grams											

Green (D)	Perry (D)	Seddio (D)	Mirones (R)	Lavelle (D)	Ignizio (R)	Cusick (D)	Silver (D)	Grannis (D)	Glick (D)	Stringer (D)	Powell IV (D)	O'Donnell (D))	Wright (D)	Farrell, Jr. (D)	Espaillat (D)	Bing (D)	Sanders (D)	Gottfried (D)	Rivera, P (D)	Greene (D)	Rivera, J (D)	Benjamin (D)	Rivera, N (D)
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	78	77	78	79	80
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
N	N	N	Υ	N		ABS	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
D	D	D+	B-	D	NA	INC	D	С	D-	D	В	D	D	D	D-	D	D-	D	D	D	D	D	NA
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
В	В	B+	B-	В	С	В	В	В	C+	В	В	B-	В	В	B-	В	B-	В	В	В	В	В	С
C-	C-	C+	В-	С	INC	NA	C-	В	D+	C-	B-	C-	C-	C-	D+	C-	D+	C-	C-	C-	C-	C-	INC
			A.7422; A.5311					A10970	A.2611; A.1948 A.5496; A.2670			A.2224			A.9841; A.4113		A.5905; A.4421						
			<b>•</b> -[5	Smoking ce	ssation prog	grams		<b>•</b> -[s	Sperm bank	. Abortions	ture	• [	omestic pa	rtners	• [	aser vision		lental healt	<mark>h services</mark>				
		•-	Cosponsor (A.4576, A.	of mandate 3449)	reform legi	slation		-	Chairman o with a good impact of m	understand	nce Commi ding of the	ttee											

Legislator	OUR POSITION	Dinowitz (D)	Bennedetto (D)	Heastie (D)	Arroyo (D)	Diaz Jr., R (D)	Diaz, L (D)	Pretlow (D)	Paulin (D)	Bradley (D)	Galef (D)	Latimer (D)	Brodsky (D)	Mosiello (R)	Zebrowski (D)	Karben (D)	Calhoun (R)
DISTRICT		81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
2004- Mental Health Mandate (A.8301)	N	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ			Υ	Υ
2004- Small Group Exemption/MHPA.8301)	Υ	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ABS		N			N	Υ
2004- Wig Health Mandate (A.3713)	N	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ			Υ	Υ
2004 Grade		D-	NA	D	D-	D-	D	D-	D-	D	С	NA	D-	NA	NA	D	В
2005 - Mental Health Mandate (A.2912)	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
2005 Grade		C+	В	В	В	В	В	С	B-	В	В	В	INC	В	В	В	B+
CUMULATIVE GRADE 2004-05		D+	NA	C-	D+	C-	C-	D	D+	C-	C+	INC	INC	INC	INC	C-	В
MANDATE BILLS SPONSORED Black= Bills introduced in 2004 Red = Bills introduced in 2005		A.3033; A.1899 A.9263; A.2424			A.669 A.671	A.3023		A.1261 A.4953; A.4690 A.588 A.2880	A.6760; A.1014				A.777; A.3622				
BILL DESCRIPTION		11.2	Colorectal s Tay-Sachs	screenings testing		L	"Philosopher practitioners"		I. Dietetic se 2. Genetic tes 3. Expanded	sting	services		<b>•</b> -[	Human leuko	cyte antiger	testing	
					<b>O</b> -12	. Expanded 2. Ovarian tes	chiropractic o sting mandat	coverage	● Ea	arly Intervent	tion Services						
COMMENTS													Co-sponsor	<mark>of mandate i</mark>	<mark>reform legisl</mark>	ation (A.6193	3)

Rabbitt (R)	Gunther (D)	Stephens (R)	Kirwan (R)	Cahill (D)	Miller (R)	Manning (R)	McEneny (D)	Tonko (D)	Canestrari (D)	Crouch (R)	Casale (R)	Reilly (D)	Tedisco (R)	Magee (D)	McDonald (R)	Sayward (R)	Ortloff (R)	Townsend, Jr. (R)	Destito (D)	Butler (R)	Aubertine (D)	Christensen (D)	Magnarelli (D)
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	Υ		ABS	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	N
	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
NA	D-	В	В	D-	В	В	D	D-	D	B-	В	NA	С	В	С	В	В	B+	D	В	D	D	D
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
В	В	В	В	С	В	В	В	C+	В	A+	B-	В	В	B+	В	В	В	В	В	В	В	В	В
D	D	U	Ь		D		D	UT.	D	АТ	D-	U	U	דע	D	D	D	U	U	D	D	О	D .
INC	C-	В	В	D	В	В	C-	D	C-	B+	В	INC	C+	B+	С	В	В	B+	C-	В	C-	C-	C-
	A9459; A.450			A.376; A.4850 A.8580; A.1937 A.9143				A4350; A3705 A8301; A2912; A11694; A.6498		A.2273	A.4803												
	<b>●</b> -[	Prosthetic d	evices.	2	. Wigs 2. Chinese n 3. Coverage	nedicine of nurse fir	st assistant	•	1. Osteopati 2. Mental h	nic manipul ealth mand	ation treatm ate	ent											
								N	urse anesth	etists	•-[	xpanded ov	<mark>/arian canc</mark>	er screening	g								
	<b>•</b> -[0	Cosponsor o	f mandate ı	reform legis	l <mark>ation we f</mark> a	avor (A.4576	6, A.3449)				Sponsor of legislation (		eform	<b>•</b> -[	Co-sponsor	<mark>of mandate</mark>	reform leg	islation (A.3	449)				

Legislator	OUR POSITION	Brown (R)	Scozzafava (R)	Finch (R)	Barclay (R)	Lifton (D)	Lupardo (R)	Hooker (R)	Oaks (R)	Kolb (R)	Errigo (R)	John (D)	Morelle (D)	Gantt (D)	Reilich (D)	Koon (D)	Bacalles (R)
DISTRICT		121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
2004- Mental Health Mandate (A.8301)	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		N	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N
2004- Small Group Exemption/MHP (A.8301)	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	N		ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N	Υ
2004- Wig Health Mandate (A.3713)	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
2004 Grade		С	В	В	В	D	NA	A+	A-	B+	B+	D-	D-	D	В	D-	B+
2005 - Mental Health Mandate (A.2912)	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	ABS	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	N
2005 Grade		В	В	В	Α	В	В	INC	А	A-	В	C+	C+	INC	В	B-	А
CUMULATIVE GRADE 2004-05		C+	В	В	A-	C-	INC	INC	A-	B+	B+	D	D	INC	В	D+	A-
MANDATE BILLS SPONSORED Black= Bills introduced in 2004 Red = Bills introduced in 2005										A.5597; A.5911		A22; A11586 A.8428	A.279; A.1058 A.1479; A.4134			A.3716; A.1743	
BILL DESCRIPTION						Ly	mphedema a	and compres	sion sleeves	•			1. Expands coalcohol/substservices 2. Child abuse		ds	Wigs for ch	ildren
COMMENTS						or mandates I	member of li nowing great of mandate re		tion (A.6193	<b>-</b>	<b>•</b> -C	o-sponsor (	of mandate re	oform legisla	mand legisla	onsor of ate reform ation (A.6193	())

O'Mara (R)	DelMonte (D)	Nesbitt (R)	Schimminger (D)	Peoples (D)	Wirth (R)	Tokasz (D)	Hoyt (D)	Schroeder (D)	Quinn (R)	Burling (R)	Hayes (R)	Young (R)	Parment (D)
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	Υ	N	Υ
	N	ABS	N	N	ABS	N	N			Υ	Υ	Υ	N
	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
NA	D	В	A-	D-	С	D-	D-	NA	NA	В	В	Α	D
N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	ABS	Υ
A	В	A	A	B-	В	В	В	В	В	INC	B+	INC	В
INC	C-	A-	A-	D+	C+	C-	C-	INC	INC	INC	В	INC	C-
			A.4576; A.3449	A.11001; A.1699		A.1482	A.657						
				Pr	renatal vitar	∟` -	lassage the	hemical de	pendence s	ervices			
		9	Strong advoc	cate against  Mandate re	t mandates Lelief legislat	ion (A.3449					On le	o-sponsor on andate refugislation (	of orm .6190)

#### UNDERSTANDING THE SENATE VOTING RECORD

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of our Alliance's success, especially in terms of educating Legislators in the State Senate. We are pleased to report that not a single mandate has become a law in New York State since 2002. While this is good for our members, it also presents a unique challenge as we strive for fair and accurate grading. This year, we compiled voting records from two consecutive legislative years to provide a single cumulative score for your elected officials. We felt basing a grade on a single year – especially when so few mandate bills were brought to vote – was unfair to lawmakers and more important, failed to give our members an accurate view of legislator's overall position on this issue.

In 2004 and 2005, the Senate voted on a total of three health insurance mandate bills. In 2004 there were two bills – a mental health mandate and a second bill supporting mandate reform. The following year, the Senate voted on just a single issue, a mandate reform proposal.

#### HOW LEGISLATORS WERE GRADED

For the purposes of grading this report card, every lawmaker began the year with an "A." That grade could change depending on a lawmaker's votes, bill introduction records, sponsorship of mandate reform legislation and overall understanding of issues. Since our purpose is to educate legislators on this issue and not to unduly penalize, no lawmaker received a great lower than D-.

In the cumulative grade, the year with multiple mandate votes holds greater weight than years when only a single issue was voted upon. Legislators that were absent for two or more votes received an incomplete (INC).

#### **Review of Legislation**

#### SENATE BILLS VOTED ON IN 2004

BILL NUMBER: S.4463 SPONSOR: SEWARD

OUR POSITION: YES

FINAL ACTION: PASSED SENATE.

DIED IN ASSEMBLY INSURANCE

**COMMITTEE** 

#### **Background on Proposal:**

This proposal seeks to reform the process by which health insurance mandates are passed by establishing a Health Insurance Benefit and Cost Commission to study and report on the cost and medical efficacy of mandate legislation prior to passage.

#### The Employer Alliance supports this legislation because:

- This legislation would provide lawmakers with information needed ascertain the value of each mandate proposal and determine the appropriateness of legislating such coverage prior to consideration.
- This legislation will ensure that any mandate passed in this state will not undermine efforts being made to

expand insurance coverage opportunities.

Twenty-seven other states including our immediate neighbors Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont and Massachusetts require a cost/efficacy analysis for health insurance mandate bills.

BILL NUMBER: S.7296 SPONSOR: LIBOUS OUR POSITION: YES

FINAL ACTION: PASSED SENATE.

DIED ASSEMBLY RULES

**COMMITTEE** 

#### Background on Proposal:

This mandate requires the coverage of unlimited mental health & substance abuse benefits. The Employer Alliance will continue to oppose all health insurance mandates as a matter of principle. However, this is a landmark proposal contains several important features that for the first time in any mandate legislation, recognizes the hardships of businesses – particularly the struggles that small business are encounter in providing health insurance for their employees.

#### The Employer Alliance supports this legislation because:

- ❖ It includes an exemption for companies with less than 50 employees.
- ❖ It includes a trigger that removes the mandate if premiums rise more than 2% due to the mandate.
- The bill would specify streamlined treatment covering common mental health diagnosis.

#### SENATE BILLS VOTED ON IN 2005

BILL NUMBER: S.1372 SPONSOR: SEWARD

OUR POSITION: YES

FINAL ACTION: PASSED SENATE.

**DIED ASSEMBLY INSURANCE** 

**COMMITTEE** 

#### Background on Proposal:

This proposal seeks to reform the health insurance mandate process by establishing a Health Insurance Benefit and Cost Commission to study and report on the cost and medical efficacy of proposed mandates prior to passage.

#### The Employer Alliance supports this legislation because:

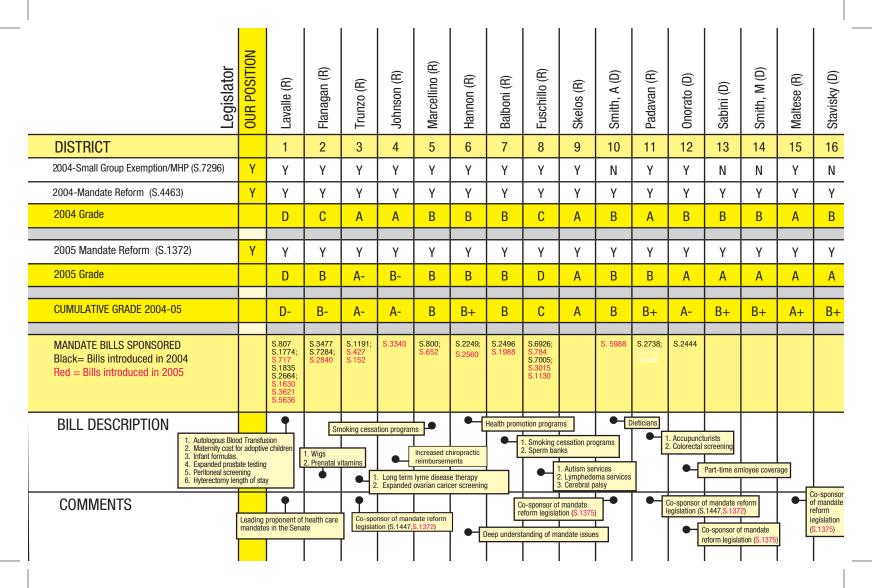
- This proposal provides lawmakers with valuable information needed to ascertain the value of each mandate proposal and determine the appropriateness of legislating such coverage prior to consideration.
- ❖ This legislation will ensure that any mandate passed in this state will not undermine efforts being made to expand insurance coverage opportunities.
- Twenty-seven other states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont and Massachusetts, require a cost/efficacy analysis for health insurance mandate bills.



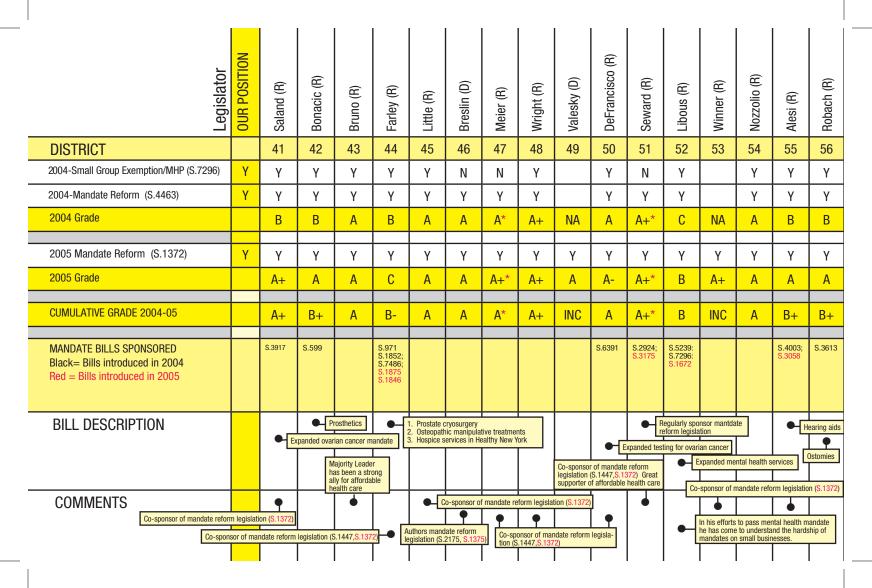


## Senate Voting Record





	Malave-Dilan (D)	Montgomery (D)	Sampson (D)	Andrews (D)	Parker (D)	Golden (R)	Savino (D)	Marchi (R)	Conner (D)	Krueger, L (D)	Kruger, C (D)	Serrano Jr. (D)	Duane (D)	Paterson (D)	Schneiderman (D)	Diaz, Sr. (D)	Gonzalez, Jr. (D)	Klein (D)	Spano (R)	Hassell-Thompson (D)	Oppenheimer (D)	Morahan (R)	Larkin (R)	Leibell (R)
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
$\perp$	N	ABS	Υ	N	N	Υ		Υ	N	N	Υ		N	N	N	N	N		Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
$\perp$	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
	В	В	A	В	В	Α	NA	С	В	В	В	NA	С	В	В	В	В	NA	С	В	A	A	В	A
t	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	γ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ABS	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
	Α	Α	A	A	A	Α	Α	С	Α	Α	В	Α	В	A	Α	A	A	A	С	INC	A	Α	Α	<b>A</b> +
+				_	_	_			_	_	_			_	_	_							_	
+	B+	B+	A	B+	B+	Α	INC	С	B+	B+	В	INC	C+	B+	B+	B+	B+	INC	С	INC	Α	A	B+	A
		S.1639						S.1626; S.2437 S.3298; S.1944			S.1872; S.2669 S.2799; S.2014		S.628; S.305						S.1230; S.3515 S.2410; S.4365				S.955; S.64 S2977	S.419
		• <i>I</i>	Acupuncture	e services							1 2	. Tay-Sachs . Contracep	testing tives and of	her women	's reproduc	tive service	S		1. 2.	Podiatric be Early Interv	enefits rention serv	ices	Prosthetic	•
								•-	I. Wigs 2. Expanded	l mental he	alth		•-[1	. Expanded	mental hea	alth	_						•	
																				1. Hospitali: 2. Home ca		anesthesia	for certain d	ental work
												ponsors a r ill (S.2211,	mandate reli S.798)	ef	Со-	sponsor of r		onsor of ma	andate refor o-sponsor o	m legislation f mandate re Co-sponsor	eform legisla	ation (S.144		47,S.1372)



Young (R	Stachowki (D)	Volker (R)	Brown (D)	Rath (R)	Maziarz (R)
57	58	59	60	61	62
	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
NA	В	А	А	А	В
Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Y	Υ
Α	В	Α	А	A+	В
INC	В	A-	A-	A	В
	S.862; S.2088			S.2048	S.1929; S.113
	● M	lassage the	erapy eromandular	_	rosthetics on
	Co-s legis	ponsor of m lation (S.14	nandate refor 47,S.1372)	m •	

<sup>\*</sup> see page 4 for Legistators of the Year

