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Press Release

Mandate commission changes a winner for all

ALBANY – Today the Senate Insurance Committee addressed a major roadblock to this state’s health insurance crisis by supporting Legislation that would push forward operation of New York’s Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission.

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care strongly supports the intention of this commission – designed to study the cost and medical impact of health insurance legislation. All health insurance mandates increase the cost of premiums for small business consumers. The Health Care Quality and Cost Containment Commission will evaluate all new mandate proposals and provide background to aid the decision-making process. The commission was approved in 2007 yet today remains non-functioning due to a lack of necessary appointments.

Senator Patrick Gallivan has sponsored a bill (S.3042) that will eliminate existing roadblocks to the process, expanding its function to address correlations with federal healthcare reform and establishing timelines that would force the committee to meet immediately.

“With so many unknowns related to federal healthcare reform, we can’t afford to ignore the obvious,” said Executive Director Pamela Reese Finch. “Health insurance mandates already increase the cost of health insurance premiums. If the problem is not addressed in 2013, the extra burden of any new mandates that are not part of basic federal healthcare will become a financial burden to the taxpayers of this state as well. Everyone will benefit from these changes proposed to the commission and we urge the Legislature to move forward on this effort.”

With more than 3,000 members, The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is the largest, single-issue grassroots business coalition in New York State. For more information, visit www.employeralliance.com.