

Letter to the editor: January 24, 2013

### ***Premiums stifle small business growth***

So far the Governor and State Legislator have failed to address the problem created by astronomical increases in health insurance premiums.

My health insurance carrier has asked for a 24.9% increase, on top of double-digit increases they've received in the past four out of five years.

*Ouch.*

My business lacks the luxury of such a hike. To make matters work, it's a double whammy as a study last week announced that New Yorkers with private health coverage will pay \$4.8 billion in state health insurance taxes this year.

We have enough barriers. Let's make 2013 the year that state lawmakers use the solutions at their disposal to eliminate the mandates, fees and taxes that drive up premium costs. Affordable health is part of a business friendly environment.

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