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Press Release

For small businesses, budget a mix of good and bad

ALBANY – The Governor’s budget proposal holds a mix of both good and bad for small business owners who are struggling to afford health insurance.

One concern is the proposal to shift Early Intervention costs from the counties and onto private health insurance. The consequences could be dire for the small business community, coming on the tale of 2011 legislation that is already set to increase premium costs by expanding coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder. This proposal deflects the cost burden from a county tax base onto the smaller pool of privately insured businesses in the community.

On a brighter note, today’s budget message highlighted the dire need that small business owners have for access to affordable health insurance options. The Governor’s message looks to close this gap through the creation of exchanges that will give consumers great choice.

It’s important that lawmakers continue to recognize the dire consequences that health insurance costs place on small businesses. Lawmakers should be keenly aware of other factors that influence costs – refraining from additional regulatory and coverage mandates.

We encourage the State Legislature to stay this course and focus on affordability, refraining, in its cost-cutting measures, from shifting public costs to the private business sector.

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The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is a coalition of 3,400 small business owners and sole proprietors who oppose health insurance mandates and believe that everyone should have access to basic, affordable health insurance.