

New York State's Crisis – Affordable Health Care

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

PRESS RELEASE

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In Herkimer, Fulton & Otsego Counties

Business Owners Oppose Mental Health Parity

Thirty business owners from Herkimer, Fulton and Otsego counties recently united in opposition to New York's proposed Mental Health Parity and other legislation that could further increase health insurance premiums. For many, this action is a response to rising premiums.

Small business owners and sole proprietors have asked Assemblyman Marc Butler (R-117) in a letter to oppose costly legislative mandates that add to the expense of health insurance premiums. New York has 33 different mandates on record. These required treatments and services add 12 percent – in some cases more than \$1,000 annually – to the cost of health insurance premiums. The businesses also asked their assemblyman to support a process that requires an unbiased analysis of a mandate's cost and efficacy before the measure is considered.

"Years ago small businesses and sole proprietors worried about how they would pay their taxes," said Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Wally Hart, who co-signed the letter to Assemblyman Butler. "Today their top concern is health insurance. We hear it when premium notices are mailed – businesses have reached their limit in absorbing higher medical insurance premiums. Every mandate comes with a cost borne by premium payers. Individuals and small businesses unable to self-insure must bear the full cost of mandates through higher premiums."

The chamber of commerce and other businesses that participated in the initiative are members of a statewide coalition called the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care. The Employer Alliance is the largest single-issue business coalition in New York State, with more than 1,500 members employing more than 100,000 individuals. For more information, go to www.employeralliance.com.

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