

New York State's Crisis – Affordable Health Care

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

PRESS RELEASE

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Employer Alliance Endorses Senate “Mandate Free” Proposal

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care today endorsed legislation proposed by Senator James L. Seward (R-51) that is designed to make health insurance more affordable and accessible to the three million New Yorkers presently uninsured.

S.6332 includes a 43% tax credit for small businesses (with some income limitations) that could climb to 50% when combined with existing health insurance deductions. Furthermore, the proposal builds on the recent Medicare legislation passed in Washington that establishes Health Savings Accounts – providing purchasers of insurance with more options to choose from and opportunities for those without coverage.

“The Senate’s legislation is the most comprehensive and meaningful insurance proposal we have seen since the start of our coalition six years ago,” said Scott Miller, chairman of the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care. “They have heard our call for relief by proposing policies that provide greater flexibility for premium payers. We are particularly pleased that the legislation authorizes the sale of ‘Freedom Policies’, which are free of health insurance mandates. These changes in tandem with favorable tax treatment could reduce health insurance costs in New York by more than 40%.”

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He added that unlike other proposals, S.6332 seeks to reward employers who offer health insurance with a tax deduction. “This is far preferable to proposals that would require employers without insurance to pay a “tax” to cover some uninsured and further calls on the state to incur more than \$2 billion in debt in the form of a bond act,” he said.

The Alliance has asked its 1,600 members to convey their support of this measure to lawmakers. “At a time when Albany is spending more time on issues that will increase health insurance costs – like mandating unlimited mental health treatments or early intervention services – it is refreshing that the Senate has responded with a proposal that can make a real difference in attaining health insurance coverage in New York.”

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is the largest single-issue business coalition in New York State. Members are committed to preserving quality, affordable health insurance by opposing legislative mandates.