

New York State's Crisis – Affordable Health Care

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

Press Release

Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care Calls on Senate to Pass Mandate Reform ***Recognition of Uninsured Problem***

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care, a coalition of 1,200 businesses across New York dedicated to preserving affordability of health insurance, today called on the Senate to pass mandate reform legislation (S. 1447) as a show of its commitment to reducing the number of New Yorkers who cannot afford health coverage.

“This week is national ‘Cover the Uninsured Week’,” said Scott Miller, chair of the Employer Alliance. “What better way to call attention to the issue of the uninsured that by passing legislation that will examine the cost of health care and work to make coverage for affordable.”

The mandate reform proposal would create a “health benefit and cost commission” that would be charged with conducting a cost analysis of proposed benefits as well as a comprehensive review of all current mandated benefits. Nearly 25 states including our immediate neighbors Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Vermont and most recently Massachusetts require a cost/efficacy analysis for health insurance mandate bills.

“Mandates in New York are already making it difficult for many businesses to continue providing health insurance coverage for their workers,” noted Miller. “Each of the past several years, the legislature has considered nearly 100 proposals that would impose new required benefits, treatment or providers and, as a result, further increase the cost of health insurance and put coverage further out of reach for more New Yorkers.”

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“More than three million New Yorkers are currently without insurance and, according to numerous reports, nearly 75% of the uninsured are working. Certainly we need to find ways to make health coverage more affordable and available to those New Yorkers. However, we also need to make sure that people who now are struggling to keep insurance don’t lose it, and this mandate reform bill is an important first step toward that goal,” Miller added.

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