

# New York State's Crisis – Affordable Health Care

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **Lawmakers Are Becoming More Responsive in Recognizing the Need for Affordable Health Insurance**

New York State lawmakers have made some improvement in their understanding of the correlation between mandates and the high cost of health insurance premiums, according to The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care, the state's largest, single-issue business coalition.

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care released its third annual Legislative Report Card today. The report card evaluates lawmakers' commitment to affordable health care by evaluating their voting record on issues that impact health insurance affordability. This year, 18 legislators received a grade of "A," which is six more than last year. Key issues for the legislative session ending in June 2002 included the sole proprietor mandate, the Computer Aided Mammography (CAD) study bill, the Women's Omnibus Mandate, scalp prosthesis mandate and infertility mandate. Individual grades are formulated using information about each legislator's bill introduction record and other variables that demonstrate a commitment to affordable health care.

"The report card is a tool that allows us to measure each legislator's commitment to affordability," said Alliance Chairman Scott Miller. "We believe that it is important for every person in New York State to have access to basic, affordable health insurance coverage. As the economy weakens, it becomes increasingly difficult for small businesses to provide this benefit to employees. Lawmakers add to the burden by approving mandates that affect our basic insurance costs. We applaud the 18 legislators whose voting record reflects a commitment to giving all New Yorkers a chance at affordable health care, yet clearly, our job is not done."

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Lawmakers who received a grade of “A-” or higher are: Senator Raymond A. Meier, Senator Dale M. Volker , Assemblyman Robert J. Warner, Senator John DeFrancisco, Senator Caesar Trunzo, Senator Serphin R. Maltese, Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Senator Hugh T. Farley, Senator Frank Padavan, Senator James L. Seward, Assemblyman Thomas F. Barraga, Assemblyman Matthew Mirones, Assemblyman Alexander B. Grannis, Assemblyman Thomas Kirwin, Assemblyman John J. Faso, Assemblyman Pat M. Casale and Assemblyman Sam Hoyt.

A handful of private business owners and individuals founded The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care in 1997, following passage of the “Chiropractic Care Act.” A New York State Insurance Department study found that this single benefit increased the cost of health insurance by \$110 million annually. Today the Employer Alliance remains the largest single-issue business coalition in New York State with more than 1,200 members representing over 100,000 employees.

Assembly member	Grade		
		LaVelle (D-59)	B-
		Mirones (D-60)	A-
		Straniere (R-61)	B-
		Silver (D-62)	C+
		Sanders (D-63)	C+
		Gottfried (D-64)	C+
		Grannis (D-65)	A-
		Glick (D-66)	C-
		Stringer (D-67)	B-
		Powell (D-68)	B-
		Sullivan, E. (D-69)	B-
		Wright (D-70)	B-
		Farrell (D-71)	B-
		Espailat (D-72)	B-
		Ravitz (R-73)	C+
		Arroyo (D-74)	B-
		Diaz (D-75)	C+
		P. Rivera (D-76)	B-
		Greene (D-77)	B-
		J. Rivera (D-78)	B-
		Davis (D-79)	C+
		Klien (D-80)	B-
		Dinowitz (D-81)	C+
		Kaufman (D-82)	B-
		Heastie (D-83)	B-
		Pretlow (D-84)	C
		Tocci (D-85)	B-
		Brodsky (D-86)	C
		Spano (R-87)	C+
		Paulin (D-88)	B-
		Matusow (D-89)	C-
		Galef (D-90)	B-
		Stephens (R-91)	B+
		Gromack (D-92)	B-
		Colman (D-93)	B-
		Calhoun (R-94)	B+
		Mills (R-95)	B-
		Kirwin (R-96)	A-
		Miller (D-97)	B+
		Gunther (D-98)	B
		Manning (R-99)	B+
		McDonald (R-100)	B+
		Cahill (D-101)	C
		Faso (R-102)	A-
		Tedisco (R-103)	B+
		McEneny (D-104)	B-
		Tonko (D-105)	C+
		Canestrari (D-106)	B-
		Prentiss (R-107)	B+
		Casale (R-108)	A-
		Little (R-109)	B+
		Ortloff (R-110)	B+
		Magee (D-111)	B+
		Scozzafava (R-112)	B-
		Butler (R-113)	B+
		Nortz (R-114)	B+
		Townsend (R-115)	B+
		Destito (D-116)	B
		Sullivan, F. (R-117)	B+
		Sanford (R-118)	B+
Acampora (R-1)	C		
Thiele (R-2)	C		
Mazzarelli (D-3)	B-		
Englebright (D-4)	B-		
Levy (D-5)	B-		
Wertz (R-6)	B		
Barraga (R-7)	A-		
Boyle (R-8)	B-		
Flanagan (R-9)	B+		
Conte (D-10)	B-		
Sweeney (D-11)	B-		
Labriola (R-12)	B-		
Sidikman (D-13)	C+		
Herbst (R-14)	B-		
Ferrara (R-15)	B-		
Dinapoli (D-16)	D		
O'Connell (R-17)	B-		
Hill-Hooper (D-18)	B-		
McDonough (R-19)	B+		
Weisenberg (D-20)	C+		
Barra (R-21)	C		
Alfano (R-22)	B-		
Pheffer (D-23)	C+		
Weprin (D-24)	B-		
McLaughlin (D-25)	B-		
Carrozza (D-26)	C		
Mayersohn (D-27)	B-		
Cohen, M (D-28)	B-		
Scarborough (D-29)	B-		
Markey (D-30)	B-		
Titus (D-31)	INC		
Cook (D-32)	B-		
Clark (D-33)	B+		
Lafayette (D-34)	B-		
Aubry (D-35)	B-		
Gianares (D-36)	C		
Nolan (D-37)	B-		
Seminerio (D-38)	B-		
Seddio (D-39)	B+		
Gordon (D-40)	B-		
Weinstein (D-41)	C+		
Jacobs (D-42)	C+		
Norman (D-43)	B-		
Brennan (D-44)	C+		
Cymbrowitz (D-45)	C+		
Cohen, A. (D-46)	B-		
Colton (D-47)	B-		
Hikind (D-48)	B-		
Abbate (D-49)	B-		
Lentol (D-50)	B+		
Ortiz (D-51)	B-		
Millman (D-52)	B-		
Lopez (D-53)	B-		
Towns (D-54)	B-		
Boyland (D-55)	B-		
Robinson (D-56)	B-		
Green (D-57)	B-		
Perry (D-58)	B-		

Christensen (D-119)	B-	Eve (D-141)	B-
Magnarelli (D-120)	B-	Hayes (R-142)	B+
Brown (R-121)	B+	Tokasz (D-143)	B
Crouch (R-122)	B+	Hoyt (D-144)	A-
Dinga (R-123)	B+	Higgins (R-145)	B-
Warner (R-124)	A+	Smith (D-146)	B
Luster (D-125)	C	Burling (R-147)	B+
Finch (R-126)	B+	Wirth (R-148)	B+
Winner (R-127)	B+	Young (R-149)	B+
Oaks (R-128)	B+	Parment (D-150)	B+
Kolb (R-129)	B+		
Bacalles (R-130)	B+		
John (D-131)	B-		
Morelle (D-132)	C+		
Gantt (D-133)	B-		
Robach (D-134)	B-		
Koon (D-135)	C+		
Errigo (R-136)	B+		
Nesbitt (R-137)	B+		
Delmonte (D-138)	B-		
Seaman (R-139)	B-		
Schimminger (D-140)	A		

### Senator's last name, Grade

#### Party & district

Lavalle (R-1)	D	Espada (D-32)	B
Lack (R-2)	B-	Hassell-Thompson (D-33)	B
Trunzo (R-3)	A	Veella (R-34)	C
Johnson (R-4)	B+	Spano (R-35)	B
Marcellino (R-5)	B-	Oppenheimer (D-36)	B-
Hannon (R-6)	B+	Leibell (R-37)	B
Balboni (R-7)	C	Morahan (R-38)	B
Fuschillo (R-8)	B	Larkin (R-39)	B-
Skelos (R-9)	B	Bonacic (R-40)	B+
Padavan (R-11)	A-	Saland (R-41)	B+
Smith (D-12)	B	Breslin (D-42)	B+
Hevesi (D-13)	B	Bruno (R-43)	B+
Onorato (D-14)	B	Farely (R-44)	A-
Maltese (R-15)	A	Stafford (R-45)	B
Stavisky (D-16)	B	Wright (R-46)	B
Santiago (D-17)	B	Meier (R-47)	A+
Montgomery (D-18)	B-	Hoffman (R-48)	B-
Sampson (D-19)	B	DeFrancisco (R-49)	A
Andrews (D-20)	B	Seward (R-50)	B+
Kruger (D-21)	C	Libous (R-51)	C+
Lachman (D-22)	C+	Kuhl (R-52)	B
Gentile (D-23)	B-	Nozzolio (R-53)	A
Marchi (R-24)	B-	Dollinger (D-54)	C+
Connor (D-25)	B-	Alesi (R-55)	B-
Kreuger (D-26)	C-	McGee (R-56)	C
Duane (D-27)	B-	Stachowski (D-58)	B+
Mendez (D-28)	B	Volker (R-59)	A+
Paterson (D-29)	B	Rath (R-60)	B
Schneiderman (D-30)	C+	Maziarz (R-61)	B+
Gonzalez (D-31)	B		