

New York State's Crisis – Affordable Health Care

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2002

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Lawmakers Asked to Pledge Support to Alleviate Number of Uninsured

ALBANY – The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care has asked New York state lawmakers to pledge their support in keeping health insurance affordable and available to everyone. The move comes in response to yesterday's United States Census Bureau Report showing a rising number of Americans without health insurance

The US Census Bureau reports that 41.2 million Americans lacked health care coverage in 2001. According to a business coalition called The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care, more than 3 million of these uninsured live and work in New York State. New York's employer-based insurance continues to shrink at a rate nearing 60%, with small employers bearing the biggest brunt of the impact.

“Affordability is the root of the problem,” said Alliance Chairman Scott Miller. “That is why we have asked legislators pledge their support. We're asking them to take an active role by being cautious and not exacerbating the high cost of health care by passing laws that require additional coverage.”

The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care, a 1,200-member, single-issue business coalition whose members believe that everyone is entitled to affordable health care coverage.

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“The Employer Alliance has asked every New York state senator and assembly member to sign a pledge supporting a moratorium on considering any additional health insurance mandates until a process is developed to determine the cost and efficacy of the extra benefits,” Miller said. “A moratorium is the only reasonable way to resolve an issue that is exacerbated, in part, by the cost of additional mandates.”

Health insurance mandates are legislative requirements that force insurance carriers to cover a specific type of treatment or procedure, which most often benefit only a small number of people. Studies have shown that the extra cost required to fund the mandate have a direct impact on the rising cost of health insurance, which most often impacts people who are least able to afford it, small and medium-sized business owners and sole proprietors.

“The problem is simply every mandate increases the cost of health insurance premiums regardless of whether individuals use the service,” Miller said. “State mandates are part of an epidemic that are locking people out of the health care system and increasing the number of people who are uninsured. Experts claim that the erosion of personal health care is expected to worsen and when you look at the outlying factors of expensive technologies, pharmaceuticals and an aging population, this will make reducing the cost of health care difficult - if not an impossible to achieve. Our desire is that our state lawmakers will come to understand the severity of this problem and pledge their support as we search for better and more comprehensive solutions.”

To learn more about the impact of health insurance mandates, visit The Employer Alliance website at www.employeralliance.com, or call (315) 363-9657.