



The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

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MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill: S.5636 (LaValle)/A.9712 (Greene)
An Act to amend the insurance law, in relation to coverage of hysterectomies.

The **Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care**, a coalition of nearly 2,500 employers dedicated to keeping New York's health insurance affordable, opposes the passage of health insurance mandates until a proper analysis of the proposal is conducted. Mandated benefits in New York already add more than \$1,000 to all family policies offered in this state. This legislation will further increase costs by specifying the length of hospital stays for hysterectomies without any justification for passage.

The Employer Alliance opposes the adoption of this legislation for the following reasons:

- Before adopting another mandated benefit, **the Legislature should pass implementing legislation to go with the \$300,000 appropriated in the 2006-07 budget to establish an independent Health Insurance Mandate Review Commission.** This commission would be charged with examining the nearly one hundred mandates currently introduced (including this one) for cost and efficacy prior to legislative action.
- Medical procedures and guidelines evolve quicker than laws are modified. For instance, laparoscopic techniques are now being utilized for many hysterectomies. This technique has decreased complications and recovery times significantly below the time required in this bill. New York already requires mandated lengths of stay for procedures contrary to current guidelines and emerging scientific findings. We should resist enacting new measures before we revisit and update existing mandates.
- The high cost of health insurance is the number one concern for small businesses statewide – surpassing taxes and energy costs. Legislators should be wary of any measure that could further increase the cost of health insurance.

As the Legislature wrestles with various proposals that seek to increase the number of insured New Yorkers, legislators must ensure that individuals with insurance maintain their coverage. Passing additional mandates, such as this proposal will have the opposite effect - increasing health care costs and the number of uninsured.

For all these reasons, the Employer Alliance urges your opposition to this legislation.