



The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

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Press Release

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Unwelcomed precedent established by substance abuse package

On Wednesday Governor Andrew Cuomo and Legislative leaders announced a plan to address heroin abuse in New York State. Included in this initiative were several changes in health insurance coverage as it relates to this problem. Most notable, health care costs must now be paid during the appeals process, regardless of the outcome.

To date the cost of these changes, or the overall impact as related to federal coverage guidelines, remains unknown. While recent hearings have brought to light the severity of Heroin abuse in New York State, Legislation of this type has historically carried had far-reaching consequences on New York's already precarious small business community. The Governor noted that the cost of this plan will be less than the cost of inaction. It's important to note that cost, and access to affordable health insurance are still a very real concern for small businesses and this bill could potentially set a dangerous precedent of providing coverage during the appeals process.

Federal reform has already caused upheaval for many of New York's small businesses. In moving forward, it's important that critical need is not overlooked.

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