

Alliance **ALERT!**

A publication of the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

The Battle is Over, But Not the War

Six months have passed since the close of the Legislature's 2005 session – the strongest years ever in the history of our organization.

The year 2005 was the third consecutive year that not a single health insurance mandate passed, a success rooted directly in the hard work of our members. Some Employer Alliance members met with their senators to discuss the impact of health insurance mandates. Others took our message to the media, supporting our regional Cover the Uninsured Week press conferences or meeting with their local editorial boards. Many became “cyber-activists” by writing to lawmakers through our website, while hundreds of others communicated the message of affordability through postal service mail.

Despite our success, the fight for affordable health insurance continues. 2006 is a statewide election year in which every seat in state government is up for grabs. Historically, legislators hustle to curry favor with voters in their districts by passing a higher percentage of mandates during an election year.

This environment presents an even greater challenge to our advocacy efforts. We will be calling on each of you in the very near future to lend a hand by contacting your local politicians and contributing to the Alliance so we can continue these important efforts. We hope you will be there to answer the call and play an active role in keeping premiums affordable in New York State.

Legislators of the Year

Congratulations!

**to Senator James L. Seward and
Assemblyman Robin Schimminger,
our 2004/05 Legislators of the Year.**

As chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Senator Seward (R-Oneonta) has remained steadfast in his opposition to all mandates – no matter what conditions may be attached to such an effort.

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger (D-Kenmore) continues to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to oppose health insurance mandates despite intense political pressure.

A special thank you should be noted to Senator Raymond A. Meier (R-C-Utica), Senator of Distinction for his opposition to health insurance mandates.



Seward



Schimminger

2004-05 Report Card

Did your lawmaker make the grade?

The 2004-05 Legislative Report Card will soon be in the hands of our members, revealing which lawmakers “made the grade” by working to keep health insurance affordable.

The Legislative Report Card outlines each legislator’s vote on health insurance mandate legislation, bill introduction records and other factors to give our members a clear picture of where their elected representatives stand on this issue.

This year’s report card offers a collective look at the past two years with grading for 2004 and 2005, plus a cumulative vote. Congratulations to those lawmakers who earned a cumulative grade of an “A-“ or greater. We appreciate their work to keep health insurance premiums affordable for small business owners and sole proprietors in New York State.

2004/05 “A List”

Assemblymember Jim Bacalles

Senator Neil Breslin

Senator John DeFrancisco

Senator Owen Johnson

Senator Elizabeth O’C Little

Senator Thomas Morahan

Assemblymember Bob Oaks

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer

Senator Stephen M. Saland

Senator Dean Skelos

Senator Dale Volker

Assemblymember William Barclay

Senator Joseph Bruno

Senator Martin Golden

Senator Vincent Leibell III

Senator Serphin Maltese

Senator Michael Nozzolio

Senator George Onorato

Senator Mary Lou Rath

Senator John Sampson

Senator Caesar Trunzo

Senator James Wright

Capital Campaign 2006

In the words of investment entrepreneur Warren Buffett, “*Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.*”

This is what you receive as a member of the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care. We successfully repelled 100+ mandate proposals introduced in New York State last year. - a \$3,000 savings based on estimations of the cost related to existing health insurance mandates, provided at no cost to our members.



Advocacy helps our message to be heard, but equally critical is the generous financial support we receive from our members. We are currently undertaking the ambitious but attainable goal of raising \$15,000 from our membership – more than double last year. Your gift of \$50.00 or more will ensure that our organization has the financial resources to continue to effectively advocate on your behalf.

Watch your mail for information about our upcoming capital campaign. Your involvement will make the difference in our continued success.

***Employer Alliance for
Affordable Health Care***

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Agricultural, Business Reps Appointed to Board

Craig Lacy, Jeff Williams and Pamela Finch were all appointed to the Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care Board of Directors during the annual meeting in August.

Williams, of West Sand Lake, is Senior Associate Director of Public Policy and Legislative Director of the New York Farm Bureau. Lacy, of Medina, is the president of Medina Parts Co., Inc., a group of three NAPA Auto Parts stores employing 21 persons in western New York. Finch, of Oneida, is a media relations consultant who specializes in helping non-profit entities.

Chairman Jeff Leland and Rob Robinson were reappointed to the board for a second term.