

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE	A.4738 - by M of A Gottfried et al – Third Reading, Calendar #946
TITLE	AN ACT to amend the public health law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "New York health act" and to establishing New York Health
SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS	This bill would enact the New York Health Act establishing New York Health, a universal single payer health plan.
REASONS FOR OPPOSITION	The Business Council of Westchester which represents over 1,000 members, ranging in size from multinational corporations, to professional service firms, hospitals and universities, mid-sized businesses, not-for-profit organizations and small business owners, strenuously opposes this legislation which would result in tax increases and a government run system that would be unaccountable resulting in less access to health care for New Yorkers.

Massive State tax increases would be needed to pay for health care costs of a single payer system which is estimated to range from an increase of \$91 billion to \$226 billion; which would be on top of the \$82 billion New York already spends on health care.

In fact, New York's health care costs are already among the highest in the nation. New York cannot afford these higher costs and more importantly, as costs and taxes rise, it makes it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain businesses not only in Westchester County, but across the State. We need to stay competitive and do all we can to prevent businesses from moving to neighboring states.

A state-run single payer system is not the answer and not the only means to attain universal coverage. The majority of countries that provide affordable coverage to all citizens use private insurance plans for affordable access and quality health care. Government run health care systems frequently attempt to control spending by rationing care and limiting what benefits and services are covered. Additionally, individuals who like their current coverage would likely lose their coverage, as a government run system would limit their options.

New York has been successful in providing health insurance coverage to more than 95% of its residents as the States uninsured rate dropped to 4.7% in 2017 the lowest ever recorded. While more work is needed to address the high costs of health care, a government-run single payer system is not the answer.

For these reasons, the BCW urges the Legislature to disapprove this bill.