



What's Inside

- Health Insurance in the State Budget
- New York Health Act Tracker
- Ways to Get Involved
- Single Payer in the News
- Growing the Coalition
- Realities Resources

Health Insurance in the State Budget

State lawmakers late Wednesday evening finalized the 2021-22 State Budget. The \$212 billion budget – \$18.7 billion more compared to last year – sharply increases spending, including for health care.

The final budget eliminates premiums for Essential Plan coverage for more than 400,000 New Yorkers earning between \$39,300 and \$52,400 for a family of four. It also expands coverage to include dental and vision by eliminating dental and vision premiums and cost-sharing for Essential Plan 1 and Plan 2 members currently paying out-of-pocket.

Expanding upon existing programs such as the Essential Plan is an example of how the State can improve access and affordability without having to take extreme measures such as implementing a single payer system.

The budget also expands coverage for postnatal care. It establishes a new 12 month “Extended Post-Partum Insurance Coverage” program. Eligible individuals include those with incomes between 200% and 233% FPL who were eligible for the extended 60-day coverage period under Medicaid.

While lawmakers rejected an increase to the Covered Lives Assessment – a tax on private health insurance – the budget includes an 18% corporate surcharge on for-profit health plans. The State taxes private health insurance by more than \$5 billion per year, which directly impacts premiums.

The main reason supporters of the NYHA want single payer is to put the government in control of our entire health care system. But they didn't want State lawmakers getting involved when it came to the Medicaid pharmacy benefit, or 340-B, carve out in this year's budget. Supporters decried the

Governor's proposal, slamming "a change to Medicaid that would "carve-out" the pharmacy benefit from Medicaid managed care plans and move it under a **one-size-fits-all bureaucracy, managed by the state.**" The final budget delays the carve out for two years.

New York Health Act Tracker



[S.5474/A.6058](#)

According to the Legislative calendar, the Senate and Assembly are scheduled to be on break until the 14th.

Sponsors of the New York Health Act have not indicated when they plan to begin pushing for the bill. The bill will need to move through the committee process in both houses before it can be considered for passage.

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31						27	28	29	30			

Ways to Get Involved

We have been working on a number of Op-Eds to distribute across the state but we need your help.

If you are interested in submitting an opinion piece, we can assist with the language or getting it placed with a publication. Just let us know. Op-Eds can sometimes be the best way to get your message out there when the press is focused on other issues.

Another action you can take is to issue a memo in opposition to the NYHAIf

you have issued one this year or will be doing so, send them our way. Please email your MIO in a PDF format.

We have provided a sample memo you can place on your letterhead and send to us. We'll distribute for you and post on the Realities website. It is available [here](#) or you could simply send us your logo and we can personalize it for you.

See a recent example from the [Capital Region Chamber](#)

Contact [Leanne](#) with MIOs, Op-Eds or any questions.

Single Payer in the News

A mix of state and national news about single payer, Medicare for All, public option and other health care related stories.

[Is universal health care on New York's horizon?](#)

Gothamist

[Public Option gets a new look](#)

Insurance News Net

[\\$50M tax to fund subsidies for public option health care will drive up costs for everyone else in Connecticut, businesses and Republicans say](#)

Hartford Courant

[Opinion: A Colorado public option for health care is a backwards step](#)

Colorado Sun

[Biden ran on a health insurance public option, but it's not clear if he will include in his recovery plan](#)

CNBC

[Bernie Sanders embraces "Medicare for More"](#)

The Hill

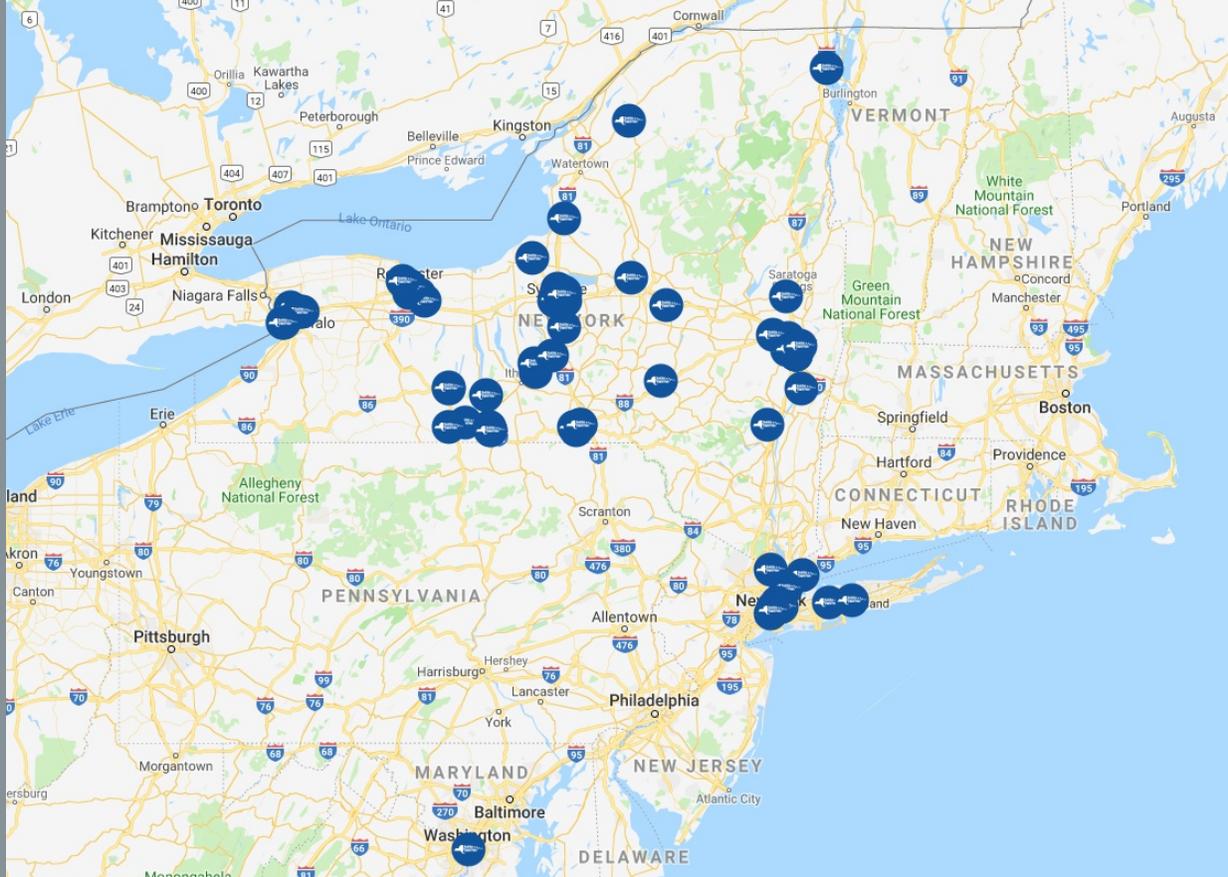
Growing the Coalition

Help us expand our membership in 2021! The coalition is currently 90 members strong. We would like to get to 100 this session.

If you know an organization that also supports allowing a variety of healthcare coverage options rather than forcing all New Yorkers to use a single government-run health insurance program, direct them to the 'Join' section on our website. We are also happy to speak to potential members or provide you with customized materials you can use to recruit potential allies.

Visit our
website





Realities Resources

Useful Links and Information

[New York State 2021 Legislative Session Calendar](#)

[New York Health Act: Cost vs Tax Increase](#)

[What is ERISA? Does it impact the New York Health Act?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about the New York Health Act](#)

[Myths and Facts about the New York Health Act](#)

[Single Payer PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Sample Opposition Memo](#)

[RAND Study on Single Payer](#)

We are happy to bring back The Real Deal, our weekly newsletter prepared by the Realities of Single Payer campaign. It is intended to keep coalition members informed about single payer, the New York Health Act, and related health care news and legislative developments in the state.

Subscribe