



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.

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Single Payer in the News

A single payer story broke through all of the news about the Governor and Legislature this week. Spectrum News political program [Capital Tonight](#) spoke to the Business Council's Lev Ginsburg about the reintroduction of the New York Health Act.

Advocates claim COVID has reinforced the need for single payer. But the reporter on this story responded by saying that the State's insured rate has remained stable at 95% throughout the pandemic, and Lev explained that people are still getting the coverage and care they need.

The reporter also noted that "the proposal would cost billions of dollars, swell the size of the State budget and would reorganize the health care sector in the state" into a government-run single payer system.



Other Recent News

[New York Health \(Re\)Act - Politico](#)

[Is Pandemic a Game Changer for Single Payer Bill? - State of Politics](#)

[Single Payer Health Bill Makes its Way Back to Legislature - Crain's](#)

New York Health Act Tracker



[\(A.5248A/S.3577A\)](#)

Legislators and the Governor are focused on the budget and will be for the next two weeks. We don't anticipate any action on the New York Health Act until post-budget, which is due April 1.

After the budget, we expect attention surrounding the bill to ramp up. We are preparing to launch an aggressive advocacy campaign, given that both houses now have enough sponsors on the bill to comprise the majority needed for passage. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Insurance Cost Drivers in the Budget

The State Senate and Assembly one-house budgets each propose more than \$200 billion in spending.

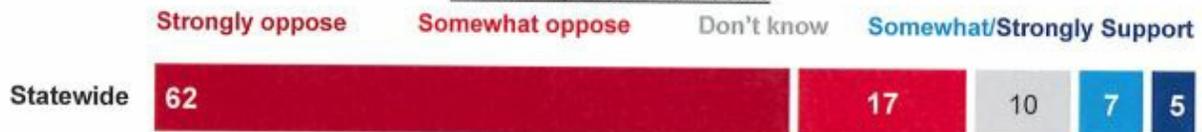
Instead of addressing the rising cost of health care, Legislators have put forward several budget proposals that would further drive up the cost of coverage. Most of these increases come in the form of taxes.

- A \$40 million increase in the covered lives assessment (CLA). That would be on top of the \$1.05 billion New Yorkers with private health insurance already pay the State under the CLA.
- An 18% surcharge on certain health insurance companies – again, a tax on those with private coverage.

New Yorkers with private health insurance coverage already pay the State more than \$5 billion in taxes every year, which increases premiums by 6-9%.

Recent polling [shows](#) that 79% of New York voters oppose additional taxes on health insurance plans.

As you may or may not know, New York State currently charges taxes on most health insurance plans which adds \$450 per person to health care costs annually. [Do you support or oppose an additional tax on health insurance plans in New York?](#)



National News

H.R.1976 - To establish an improved Medicare for All national health insurance program.

117th Congress (2021-2022) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Rep. Jayapal, Pramila \[D-WA-7\]](#) (Introduced 03/17/2021)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor; Rules; Oversight and Reform; Armed Services; Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 03/17/2021 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Rules, Oversight and Reform, Armed Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

Progressive House Democrats on Wednesday revived their Medicare for All

plan ([H.R. 1976](#)). Despite polling showing the opposite, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, one of the bill's sponsors, is [claiming](#) the American public "increasingly supports a larger role for government in health care." Like in New York, sponsors are citing the pandemic as a reason to enact a single payer system.

Also this week, House Energy & Commerce Chair Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. agreed to hold a hearing on the bill.

But Medicare for All has little chance of passing this Congress with Republicans and moderate Democrats in opposition. And President Joe Biden has always stopped short of supporting it, saying he prefers to build on the Affordable Care Act.

Ways to Get Involved

Reporters have been admitting that they are focused on covering the Governor's scandals and big ticket items like marijuana. So getting coverage for anything is more difficult right now. But that is where formats like Op-Eds are most beneficial. If you are interested in submitting an opinion piece, we can [help](#) with the language or getting it placed with a publication.

Other ways to stay involved:

- Issue a memo in opposition to the NYHA
- Issue a press release on the NYHA
- Be active on social media [#NoNYHealthAct](#)

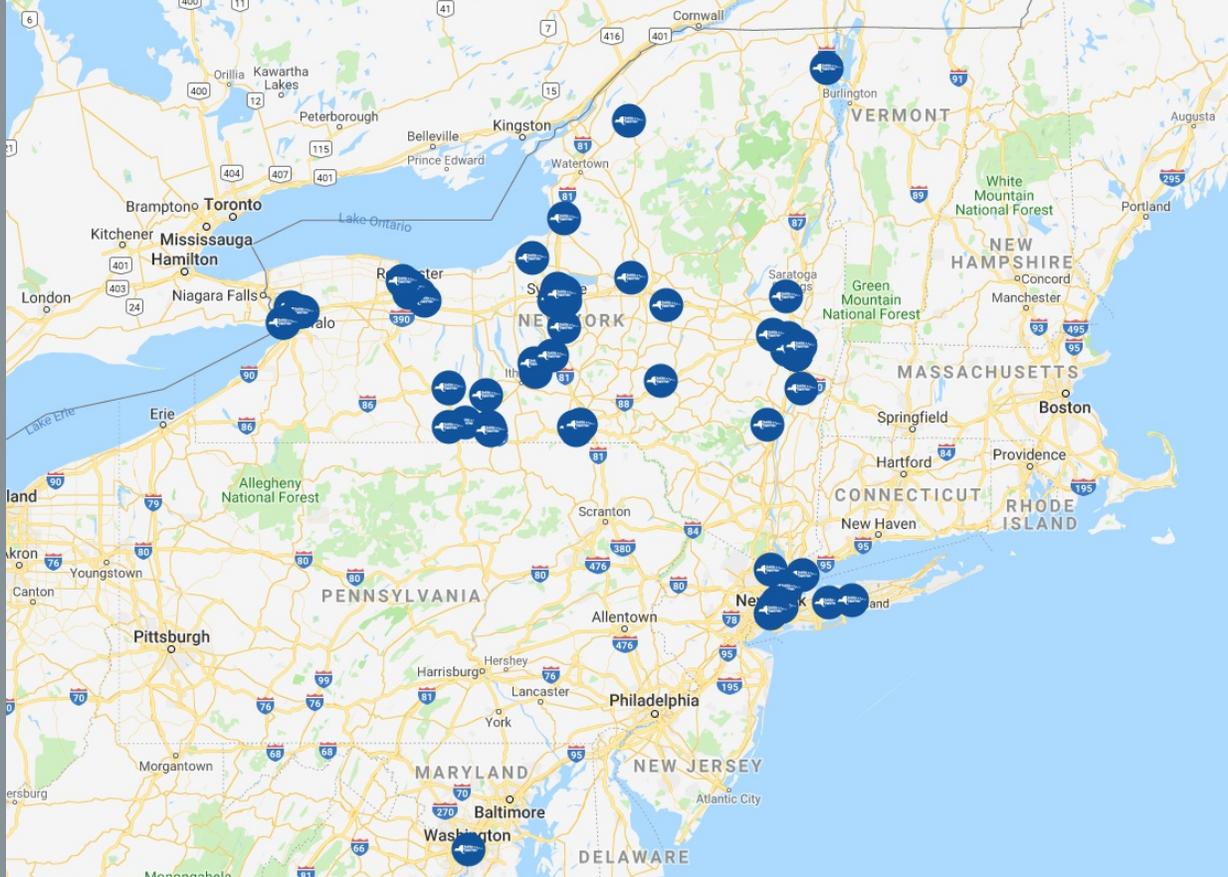
Growing the Coalition

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](#)