



March 11, 2021

RE: AN ACT: provides for establishment of the New York Health Act

S.5474 (Rivera) / A.6058 (Gottfried)

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Upstate United, a non-partisan, pro-taxpayer, pro-economic growth, education and advocacy coalition made up of business and trade organizations from all parts of Upstate New York, opposes this legislation.

If enacted, this bill would eliminate the current system of health care coverage in New York State and substitute it with a multi-billion dollar, government-run single payer system paid for by the state's taxpayers. Such a system would be costly and disruptive and should be rejected. Replacing our current system of health care coverage in New York State with a multi-billion-dollar, state-run single payer system funded by the taxpayers is not a viable policy objective.

A study by the Realities of Single Payer found that the costs of moving to a single payer healthcare system would require a tax increase totaling around \$250 billion dollars. Any savings the sponsors will claim to come from the NYHA would come about through cuts to doctors, hospitals and other providers. Cutting funds from a fully functioning healthcare system at any time would be irresponsible, doing it during a pandemic is incredibly dangerous. The public and private healthcare systems have worked together to keep the people of New York State as healthy as possible during and after the pandemic, single-payer healthcare is not the solution and will in fact compound the problem.

On top of the tax increases, this proposal would eliminate an estimated 150,000 jobs, many in Upstate New York. Millions of New Yorkers will be forced off their current healthcare plans and put into a government plan managed by an Albany bureaucracy. At a time when people are out of work and businesses are struggling to keep their doors open costing another 150,000 people their jobs is unacceptable. Given New York's toxic business climate, imposing historic tax increases and job cuts is not just irresponsible, it's malpractice.

Rather than completely dismantling our current healthcare system which covers 95 percent of New Yorkers, Upstate United believes our leaders in Albany should focus on lowering costs and expanding coverage to the New Yorkers who don't currently have health coverage. It will take years to rebuild the economy after the financial hardships brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, passing this bill would crush any hope of a post covid resurgence. Our focus should be to improve upon the healthcare system in place that already covers 95% of New Yorkers, not costing hundreds of thousands their jobs and adding hundreds of billions to the tax burden New Yorkers already face.

For these reasons, Upstate United strongly opposes the enactment of this legislation.