



May 9, 2022

Contact: Grant Loomis, VP Government Affairs @ 716-541-1736

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

New York Health Act S.5474 (Rivera) / A.6058 (Gottfried)

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, on behalf of its members who employ more than a quarter of a million people in the region, 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. In a survey conducted by Global Strategy Group, a vast majority of New Yorkers (91%) indicated that they are generally satisfied with their current health insurance and a majority of New Yorkers (55%) are very satisfied. The majority of those surveyed oppose the New York Health Act as they learn more about the details of the act. For example, 52% oppose the New York Health Act when they learn that that it will eliminate their private insurance plan.

A 2018 study by the RAND Corporation found that the costs of moving to a single payer healthcare system would require an initial tax increase of \$250 billion dollars and assumed that significant cuts to doctors, hospitals, and other providers, as well as waivers from the federal government, would be necessary in order to achieve savings. In addition, this proposal eliminates critical cost control mechanisms effectively used in the healthcare system to keep costs in check. Absent these controls, it is fair to assume the proposal's true costs will continue to climb beyond even the most aggressive estimates. On top of the tax increases, this proposal would eliminate more than 160,000 jobs, many in Upstate New York including approximately 14,000 in Western New York. At a time when businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, passing legislation which could lead to the loss of another 160,000 jobs is simply reckless.

Our current health care system covers 95 percent of New Yorkers. Rather than dismantle this system, the BNP believes our leaders in Albany should focus on lowering costs and expanding coverage to the New Yorkers who do not currently have health coverage. If this legislation were to become law, the tax increases and job losses it would precipitate would likely have long lasting negative impact on our post-pandemic recovery. Our focus should be on improving our current healthcare system, not creating uncertainty while adding to New Yorkers' tax burden.

For the reasons stated above, the BNP opposes the New York Health Act.