



# NEWS RELEASE

90 State Street • Suite 825  
Albany, NY 122074717  
518.462.2293  
Fax: 518.462.2150  
www.nyhpa.org

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**CONTACT:**  
Leslie S. Moran  
(518) 462-2293

## **NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON MANDATING IVF COVERAGE**

*Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO*

“Our member health plans recognize the type of infertility services being proposed in this bill is important to women in meeting their family planning needs. However, this mandate is ill advised and ill timed.

“No one disagrees that IVF treatment is costly — with procedures typically costing \$10,000 to \$15,000 per attempt. And while advocates of the proposal contend the cost is ‘pennies’ per policy, those pennies add up and the overall cost impact is in the tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars added to New York’s health care premiums.

“Currently, the Department of Financial Services is studying how best to include in vitro fertilization in the state’s existing infertility coverage requirements. Given the significant financial impact that expanding the mandate would have on the cost of coverage for employers and consumers, it is critical for that examination to take place to understand the efficacy and cost implications of such services.

“Affordability of health care is the most pressing issue for employers and consumers, and health plans are committed to working on cost containment efforts aimed at preserving affordability. This is particularly true as plans are preparing to file applications for their 2019 premiums — premiums that do not include this expensive coverage. New York should not move forward on this bill until we have a more complete picture of the financial impact and clinical appropriateness.”

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*The New York Health Plan Association represents 28 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to nearly 8 million New Yorkers.*