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The recent letter from Cindy Perlin, “Make insurance pay for alternative care” (May 2, 2018), alleging that health insurers are contributing to the opioid epidemic by cutting back on coverage for alternative therapies is inaccurate and does a disservice to individuals and the families caught in this epidemic devastating our communities.

Health plans are committed to ensuring that all New Yorkers who need substance abuse treatment are able to get the care they need in the right setting. They cover a wide range of treatment services, including those aimed at helping patients battling addiction, as well as promoting alternative pain management therapies instead of the use of opioids. They also seek to promote initiatives that prevent and lessen the opportunities for addiction in the first place. That involves educating providers and patients about the dangers of opioids, and reducing access to them.

New York’s health plans have been strong partners with the state, providers and patient groups working to address the opioid crisis. Finger pointing is not helpful in this effort.

Sincerely,
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