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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON 2019 RATE DECISIONS**

### ***Statement of Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO***

“Our member health plans have been committed to making health care more affordable for New York employers and individuals, many operating on razor thin margins for the last several years. The premium rate requests they submitted in May were reasonable, reflecting the continued increases in the cost of prescription drugs, rising prices charged by providers, and changes at the federal level, including the loss of the individual mandate.

“Rising health care costs remain a challenge for New Yorkers, but the rate review process should be free from political considerations, focused on economics and actuarial data. We are concerned about the impact the rate reductions will have on the stability of the marketplace and may necessitate higher increases in future years. We stand ready to work with the Administration on measures that will strengthen the market, and encourage the state to put in place measures that would provide meaningful relief to employers and consumers so that health care is more affordable.”

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