



# NEWS RELEASE

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## NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON END OF SESSION

### *Bills approved by lawmakers will drive up health care costs, make insurance less affordable*

The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) today voiced concern that legislation pending in the waning days of session will lead to higher health insurance premiums for employers and consumers.

“Rising costs remain the most pressing issue in health care facing employers and consumers,” said Eric Linzer, HPA president and CEO. “The exorbitant prices charged for prescription drugs is a major factor driving premium increases. Unfortunately, several legislative proposals removing tools to address those costs – including prohibiting midyear formulary changes, restrictions on drug substitutions, and new obligations on PBMs – will translate into higher health care costs for employers and consumers.”

The proposed rates for 2020 that health plans recently filed with the Department of Financial Services reflect the growth in the prices drug manufacturers and others charge, but Linzer noted that these legislative changes will push costs even higher.

“Our member health plans are focused on measures to rein in the factors driving increases in the cost of care. However, these proposals undercut those efforts. While the intention may be that these bills will help consumers, ultimately, they will exacerbate the challenge in making health care more affordable for all New Yorkers.”

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*The New York Health Plan Association represents 29 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.*