



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON MEDICAID REDESIGN TEAM

Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO

“As the representatives of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) begin their work, closing the structural gap should be guided by two critical principles: eliminating funding that doesn’t meet the goals of expanding access or reforming the delivery system, and rejecting any new taxes or other measures that will increase the cost of coverage for employers and consumers.

“Given the fiscal challenges the Medicaid program faces, it is critical that the MRT focuses on controlling costs to ensure the most efficient use of limited state dollars and not adding more revenue through new or increased taxes on the privately insured. More than \$5.2 billion each year is imposed on New Yorkers’ health insurance through a range of taxes, fees and surcharges. Proposals to close the Medicaid gap by increasing or adding new taxes will only exacerbate the challenge employers, consumers and union benefit funds face with the state’s high health care costs.

“Our member plans have been consistent, reliable partners in the state’s coverage expansion and delivery system reform efforts, despite facing hundreds of millions of dollars in rate cuts the last several years. We have outlined a series of common-sense measures that would go a long way to closing the state’s fiscal challenges while safeguarding the coverage of the millions of New Yorkers who rely on our member Medicaid plans, and we look forward to continuing to discuss these as part of the MRT’s process.”

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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.