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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
April 7, 2021

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### **Health Plans Applaud Budget that Avoids Health Care Cost Increases**

*Statement by Eric Linzer, President and CEO of the New York Health Plan Association*

“We commend lawmakers for their willingness to reject a range of measures that would have increased health care costs for consumers, employers, union benefit funds, including the Executive’s ‘pay and pursue’ proposal, new taxes and assessments on health insurance, and mandated provider reimbursement levels. We appreciate their measured approach to increasing access to coverage by expanding the Essential Plan and commitment to improving quality by restoring the Medicaid Managed Care Quality Incentive program without closing the budget gap by making New Yorkers pay more for their health care.

“With health care costs already among the highest in the nation, it is vital that we all work together to keep health coverage affordable. HPA and our member plans remain committed to continuing to work with the legislative leaders to realize that goal.”

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