



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 8, 2021

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BILL – S.3566/A.5854-A

Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO

“This legislation will threaten patient safety while doing nothing to address Big Pharma’s egregious pricing practices that threaten the affordability of health care in the state. By freeing retail pharmacies from having to adhere to the same quality standards as provided by mail order pharmacies, this legislation will undermine the care delivered to New Yorkers and shortchange patients.

“Further, it will translate into higher health care costs for employers and consumers. By exempting collective bargaining agreements, the bill sets two different standards, leaving fewer options for small businesses in controlling their drug costs, and begs the question ‘If it’s not good policy for the unions, why subject private employers and individuals who purchase insurance from the marketplace to it?’ Bad policy is bad policy.

“The excessive prices that pharmaceutical companies charge is a major driver of premium increases. HPA and our member plans are committed to working with lawmakers on solutions to lowering drug costs for all New Yorkers, but S.3566/A.5854-A is the wrong prescription and we will urge the Governor to veto this bill.”

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 28 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.