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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON SENATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PACKAGE

Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President and CEO

“We applaud the Senate’s action today to hold Big Pharma accountable for the out of control prices drug makers charge by passing S.7499-B/A.663-B. The legislation is a sensible approach to protect consumers, boost transparency, and crack down on egregious increases that go unchecked.

“Unfortunately, several other bills will undermine efforts to contain rising drug costs. Legislation to restrict health plans’ measures to ensure the most appropriate drug usage at the lowest cost, such as prohibitions on step therapy (S.5909/A.3276 and S.8191/A.9267), and prohibiting copay accumulator programs (A.1741/S.5299), will drive up costs for consumers and exacerbate the challenges New Yorkers face in being able to afford needed medications.

“It’s important to remember that drug companies started the year by increasing the prices on nearly 800 brand named drugs by an average of 5%, with some raising their prices by double-digits. Rather than limiting the ability of health plans to address those costs, more should be done to help consumers by tackling what’s driving those increases: the high prices Big Pharma charges.”

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