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October 3, 2022

Letters to the Editor  
Times Union  
Albany, New York 12212

To the Editor:

In response to the October 3 editorial related to minimum wage increases for home care workers, health plans have been working diligently to adjust their rates to home health agencies to reflect the higher minimum wage included in the budget. Unfortunately, some providers are seeking increases in excess of the amount needed to pay higher wages and related benefits. Also, the state has not issued final premiums to health plans for certain aspects of the program – an issue that is now being addressed.

Health plans recognize the important role of home health aides serving the state's most vulnerable residents and remain committed to working with the state and with providers to ensure that they receive the increased wages they deserve. The suggestion in the October 3 editorial that health plans are withholding funding is inaccurate. Health plans are required to submit detailed, quarterly reports on how state funding, including funding to enable providers to pay the higher minimum wage, is utilized. Comparable reporting on providers is necessary to ensure accountability that rate increases are passed along to home care workers in higher wages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Linzer". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Linzer" clearly legible.

Eric Linzer  
President and CEO  
New York Health Plan Association