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NEWS RELEASE

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**NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL’S STATE OF THE STATE
*Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO***

“We applaud Governor Hochul for her focus to make the state more affordable. New York has some of the highest health care costs in the country and we look forward to working with her Administration on measures to address the underlying factors driving the rising cost of health care to make coverage more affordable and avoiding proposals that will increase costs for consumers, families, and employers.

“We commend the Governor on her continued attention to enhance the Essential Plan and commitment to safeguarding patients from medical debt and requiring greater transparency from Big Pharma’s out-of-control drug price increases. We share the Governor’s commitment to ensure every New Yorker has access to affordable, effective and equitable mental health support and counseling. Health plans take seriously their obligation to ensure members have access to the care they need, offering a broad range of services to support members, and we look forward to further details on her proposals to expand behavioral health services in New York.”

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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.