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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEALTH PROPOSALS

Statement from Eric Linzer, New York Health Plan Association President & CEO

"While Governor Hochul's FY24 Executive Budget contains a number of provisions that will improve New York's health care system, unfortunately, there are several misguided proposals that ultimately will make health care more expensive and jeopardize the quality of care for all New Yorkers.

"The 'Pay and Pursue' proposal, which would require hospitals to be paid before submitting information to determine if the service is clinically appropriate and then force health plans to engage in a lengthy and cumbersome process to pursue refunds, will drive up costs for consumers, employers and taxpayers. Further, the proposal will make it more difficult to ensure that care is safe and effective for patients, and do nothing more than provide a financial windfall for hospitals.

"Rather than saving money, the planned pharmacy benefit carve-out in the Medicaid managed care program will increase costs for the State while threatening the care of New York's most vulnerable citizens. The elimination of the quality incentive pools in the Medicaid Managed Care and Managed Long Term Care programs will undercut efforts to achieve better health outcomes and reduce health disparities in low-income communities, which are key priorities of the State's proposed 1115 waiver.

"The focus should be on making health care more affordable for consumers, families and employers, not increasing their costs, and we urge the Legislature to reject these proposals in the final FY24 state budget."

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 27 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.