



41 State Street • Suite 900  
Albany, NY 12207  
518.462.2293  
www.nyhpa.org

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
March 22, 2023

**CONTACT:**  
[Leslie S. Moran](#)  
(518) 462-2293  
(518) 588-6655 (cell)

### **NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE “PAUSE” ON PHARMACY CARVE OUT**

*Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President and CEO*

“With both the Senate and Assembly rejecting the pharmacy benefit carve-out in their one house budgets, the time is now for an immediate delay of the April 1 start date. While we continue to urge a full repeal as the carve-out will fail to generate savings for the state and result in more fragmented care for Medicaid patients, allowing implementation to move forward when the Legislature has rejected this threatens to cause unnecessary confusion and interrupt care for millions of New Yorkers.

“Further, there continue to be questions about the state’s readiness to implement a change of this magnitude, which remain unanswered. These concerns are particularly critical as the state will also be implementing the public health emergency unwind and must recertify the Medicaid eligibility of more than 7 million residents.

“We should protect the coverage of the state’s most vulnerable residents and avoid them losing access to the drugs they need – particularly individuals with acute and chronic conditions that may be on multiple medications – and urge the Administration to hit pause NOW to allow negotiations with the Legislature to move forward without the threat of disrupting patients.”

-30-