



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON FINAL 2027 STATE BUDGET

Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President and CEO

“We applaud the Governor and Legislative Leaders for reforming New York’s No Surprises Act to exclude Medicaid from the Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process. In the face of drastic federal cuts to health care, closing this loophole will ensure vulnerable New Yorkers have access to critical services instead of allowing high-price providers to exploit state law to charge the Medicaid program excessive rates.

“Additionally, we appreciate the continued funding for the Medicaid Quality Incentive (QI) Program. At a time when the federal government is cutting health-related social needs programs, the QI Program is vital to maintaining support for the innovative partnerships among health plans, providers and community organizations that are at the core of addressing health disparities in underserved communities.

“Affordability remains the top issue in health care for consumers and employers, and New York’s health care costs are among the nation’s highest. Unfortunately, the FY27 state budget fails to include the Governor’s IDR reforms affecting the commercial market that would have addressed out-of-network providers charging exorbitant prices to make health insurance more affordable, while new limits on utilization review and the extension of the state’s MCO tax will add to the cost of coverage. These measures will exacerbate the affordability challenges facing New Yorkers, making it critical that lawmakers avoid adopting new mandated benefits, restrictions on cost sharing and other measures that will add to premium costs in the final days of session.”

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