

Resolution Supporting the New York Health Act

WHEREAS, access to and the high cost of healthcare are a major concern for many New York State residents where more than 400,000 people remain uninsured even after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act¹ and, and

WHEREAS, healthcare costs are a significant and unpredictable expense for businesses, especially small businesses. Businesses in New York spend two billion dollars annually just to administer health insurance benefits and are expected to rise by 18% by 2024², and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden spent \$683,202³ on medical, dental, and vision insurance and another \$163,442 on Worker's Compensation in 2015, which combined is 17% of the Town's total expenditures, and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study done by Professor Gerald Friedman, chair of the Economics Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, shows that the New York Health Act would save a total of \$45 billion a year (includes increasing coverage for underinsured residents and providing retraining services for displaced workers), and

WHEREAS, according to that same study, 98% of New Yorkers and businesses will pay significantly less for healthcare than they currently do if the New York Health Act is implemented, and

WHEREAS, Senator Perkins and Assemblyman Gottfried have introduced the New York Health Act, A.5062⁴ (Gottfried) / S.3525³ (Perkins), which would establish a comprehensive universal health insurance program for all New Yorkers, with access to medical services and providers of their choice, without regard to age, income, health, or employment status and would impact both individual health outcomes and public health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of New York Health would generate savings for all New Yorkers by replacing the complicated, costly, and often chaotic claims procedure currently employed by thousands of public and private insurance providers with a simple consistent process⁵, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will replace the current multi-payer system of employer-based insurance, individually-acquired insurance, and federally sponsored programs (e.g. Medicare and Medicaid) with a single-billing system funded by progressively-graduated assessments collected by the State and based on ability to pay, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will be publically financed by two assessments⁶ based on ability to pay (a progressively graduated state payroll tax similar to the Medicare tax on payroll and self-employment income, and a surcharge on non-employment income (e.g. interest, dividends, capital gains),

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce billing expenses, administrative waste, monopolistic pricing of drugs and medical devices, and fraud, overall health care spending would be reduced by 15 percent or \$45 billion per year by 2019², and

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce healthcare costs for government, public school districts, businesses, and individuals in New York State, eliminate the "local share" funding of Medicaid that has been such a financial burden for property taxpayers, and eliminate out-of-pocket expenses, insurance premiums, insurance co-pays, and deductibles, and

WHEREAS, New York Health would expand the network of providers to ensure continuity of care, and include a more comprehensive health care benefits package that includes preventive care, primary care, specialist, hospital care, rehabilitation care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health care, dental care, vision and hearing care, reproductive health care, prescription drugs, and medical supplies/devices [a requirement for the development of a long-term care financing and benefits plan is included in the proposed legislation], and WHEREAS, New York Health would save enough in unnecessary costs to pay for the costs of universal health care coverage for all, extending coverage to all the uninsured and underinsured for basic necessary medical care, and would provide a more comprehensive benefits package at significantly less cost than the one offered through recent federal legislation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Dryden Town Board supports adoption of the New York Health Act, A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins), and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Dryden Town Board urges the New York State Legislature and the Governor to recognize the widespread support for a new public approach, understand there is no stronger measure New York could take to cut our property taxes than to pass this bill into law, and take the opportunity to accomplish this major and long-needed reform,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town Clerk send copies to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Senators John Flanagan, Jeffrey Klein, Kemp Hannon, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, James Seward, Michael Nozzolio, and Tom O'Mara; and Assembly Representatives Carl Heastie, Richard Gottfried, and Barbara Lifton.

¹ Census Bureau data September 2015

² Friedman, April 2015, Economic Analysis of the New York Health Act,

http://www.infoshare.org/main/Economic_Analysis_New_York_Health_Act_-_GFriedman_-_April_2015.pdf

³ Case, May 2015 Dryden AUD Report - <http://dryden.ny.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FYI-January-Financials.pdf>

⁴ Gottfried, A05062, February 2015, New York State Assembly, 2015-2016 Session

⁵ Perkins, S02525, February 2015, New York State Senate, 2015-2016 Regular Session

⁶ Campaign For New York Health, Overview of Prof. Friedman's report on the economic analysis of the New York Health Act.

https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/pnhpnymetro/pages/139/attachments/original/1431621788/One-pager_on_Friedman_Report.pdf?1431621788