



# NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

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RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED  
75TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
  
CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

April 17, 2014

To: Assembly Members  
  
From: Richard N. Gottfried  
  
Re: "New York Health" universal health coverage single-payer bill – sign-on letter to the Speaker

Attached is a letter to Speaker Silver urging that the New York Health single-payer bill, A.5389-A, go to the Assembly floor for a vote. I invite you to sign on to the letter.

The Affordable Care Act makes important repairs to our broken health care system. But even with those repairs, our system – based on private insurance companies – has unavoidable problems for patients, health care providers, employers, individuals, and taxpayers. That's why we keep hearing from our constituents about restrictive provider networks; high premiums, deductibles and co-pays; and employers dropping coverage or shifting more of the cost to the workers.

Insurance companies and employer self-insured plans are still in charge. The **only way to truly fix the system** is a universal, single-payer, publicly funded plan that replaces insurers, saves billions, and provides better coverage for all of us.

New York Health has been endorsed by the Working Families Party, Citizen Action, the New York State AFL-CIO, SEIU 1199, the New York State Nurses Association, Communications Workers of America, United Auto Workers 9 & 9A, the Doctors Council SEIU, the Committee of Interns and Residents SEIU, United University Professions, IATSE Local 1, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians, and the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, along with 91 state legislators.

If you would like to sign on to this letter, please fill out and return the form by **Wednesday, May 7**. If you have any questions about the bill, please contact me or my assistant, Liz Hamlin-Berninger, at ext. 4941 or HamlinE@assembly.state.ny.us.

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Please return to: Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, 822 LOB, FAX: ext. 5343

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED  
75TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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May 8, 2014

Dear Speaker Silver:

We urge that the New York Health single-payer bill, A.5389-A, be brought to the Assembly floor for a vote this session.

The Affordable Care Act makes important repairs to our broken health care system. But even with those repairs, our system — based on insurance companies — has unavoidable problems. We constantly hear from our constituents:

- Many health plans have narrow restricted provider networks.
- Consumers must pay high deductibles, co-payments, and out-of-network charges — out-of-pocket spending that shifts a large part of the cost to the individual.
- Employers continue to shift more of the cost of coverage to their workers, or drop coverage entirely.
- The cost of coverage and care is billions higher than it needs to be because employers, consumers and taxpayers pay for the high administrative costs and profits of insurers, and hospitals, physicians and other health care providers spend more on dealing with insurance companies, billing and collecting.

Insurance companies and employer self-insured plans are still in charge. The system doesn't work for patients, health care providers, employers, individuals, and taxpayers. The **only way to truly fix it** is a universal, single-payer, publicly funded plan that replaces insurers, saves billions, and provides better coverage for all of us.

New York Health has been endorsed by the Working Families Party, Citizen Action, the New York State AFL-CIO, SEIU 1199, the New York State Nurses Association, Communications Workers of America, United Auto Workers 9 & 9A, the Doctors Council SEIU, the Committee of Interns and Residents SEIU, United University Professions, IATSE Local 1, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians, and the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, along with 91 state legislators.

All New York residents would receive comprehensive health coverage under "New York Health." Publicly sponsored coverage would replace insurance company coverage, and premiums would be replaced by broad-based public financing based on ability to pay.

New York Health would eliminate the local share of funding for Medicaid. Eliminating the need for employers to provide health coverage would make New York dramatically more job-friendly, especially for small businesses, start-ups and low-margin businesses, while offering better and more secure coverage to every New Yorker.

New York can do better. ***We want to be able to vote for this solution.***

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard N. Gottfried". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard N. Gottfried  
Chair, Committee on Health

THIS LETTER IS JOINED IN BY THE FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY MEMBERS: