

CSS'S REACTION TO THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS

What's Good About the Governor's Health & Insurance Proposals?

- ✓ **Economic Crisis Coverage.** In these difficult times, New York's popular public insurance programs should be easily accessible.
 - Eliminate "face to face" applications—no one should miss a day of work to apply for coverage.
 - Eliminate the "asset" test—New Yorkers need their savings in this economy.
 - Eliminate "finger printing" for adult coverage—Applying for health insurance shouldn't be treated like a crime.
- ✓ **Family Health Plus Expansion.**
 - 19 & 20 year old New Yorkers' eligibility should be increased to 150% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This would eliminate unnecessary eligibility cliffs.
 - Expand Family Health Plus to 200% of FPL with federal funding. Nearly 50% of New York's uninsured are below 200% of FPL.
- ✓ **Expand Accountable Funding for the Uninsured.**
 - Use State-only Graduate Medical Education (GME) funds to support those teaching hospitals that provide care to the



uninsured—New York has no extra funds to maintain the opaque and unaccountable state GME system; this proposal generates federal funds and allocates precious health dollars transparently to those teaching hospitals that actually treat the uninsured.

What Could Be Better?

- ✓ **Child Health Plus & Medicaid Buy-In**
 - The Governor's Budget seeks to hike premiums in the Child Health Plus and Medicaid Buy-in Program for Working People with Disabilities. The Child Health Plus hike was just rejected last year by the Legislature. And both proposals would unnecessarily burden struggling New Yorker and their families.
- ✓ **Health Insurance for Young Adults Up to Age 29**
 - While CSS supports requiring employers to offer dependent coverage up to age 29, we do not support the Governor's proposal that would erode New York's pure community rating system—which prohibits insurers in the small employer market (less than 50) from discriminating against consumers based on their age or disability. We should not hike everyone else's premiums in order to solve the young adult coverage problem.
- ✓ **Support the Direct Pay Insurance Market**
 - The Governor's Budget substantially increases funding for the poor quality Healthy New York program's "stop loss" funding pool, but decreases similar funding for the "Direct Pay" market, which offers good coverage to people who don't have job-based coverage. The Governor also misses the opportunity to dramatically reduce "Direct Pay" premiums by merging it with the small group market.
- ✓ **Strengthen the Family Health Plus Buy-In Program**
 - Two years ago, New York created the Family Health Plus Buy-In program. The Paterson administration immediately should implement this program beyond the 1199 pilot—small businesses and individuals can't wait another year for affordable and comprehensive coverage.