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Medicaid Redesign Team Passes Proposal to Increase Health Taxes

Message to Legislature: Make tough decisions – but not increase taxes

Statement attributable to Deborah Fasser, NYSCOP spokeswoman.

Albany NY – “We are disappointed that the proposal to expand the state’s 9.63 percent Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) surcharge was included in the Medicaid Redesign Team’s recommendations,” said Deborah Fasser, NYSCOP spokeswoman. “Raising the HCRA surcharge does not constitute Medicaid reform. It is simply a tax increase that unfairly targets New York’s privately insured citizens.

“This tax is especially egregious because of the impact it will have on premiums. It will ultimately result in an increase in Medicaid costs because businesses will be forced to drop coverage, which will push more employees on to Medicaid rolls.

“We urge the Legislature to reject this tax and protect affordable coverage.”

The New York State Conference of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans (NYSCOP) is a partnership of Rochester-based Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and New York City-based Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield. Together, the two health insurance plans provide comprehensive health coverage for millions of New Yorkers and are dedicated to educating the public through in-depth research and analysis of the cost, access and quality of health care.