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**Contact:** Deborah Fasser  
518.432.9086  
518.852.4933

## **Governor’s 30-Day Amendments Include Health Tax Increase**

**NYSCOP urges the Legislature to Reject HCRA Tax**

*Statement attributable to Deborah Fasser, NYSCOP spokeswoman.*

**Albany NY** – “We are disheartened that the proposal to impose a 9.63 percent Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) tax on radiology services (such as MRI’s and Cat Scans) and surgery performed outside of a hospital (such as oral surgery or a colonoscopy). Although there is a nuance change – the Commissioner ‘may’ impose the tax, as opposed to ‘shall’ impose a tax, at the end of the day, it is still a tax.

Moreover, such an optional tax is unprecedented and will lead to an administrative nightmare if the Commissioner elects to impose the tax with little time for compliance.

The Governor’s recipe for economic growth had some very specific ingredients. And avoiding taxes was one of them. It appears that the Medicaid Redesign panel failed to honor this pledge – New Yorkers cannot handle any more tax increases, period.

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

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*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.*