

# 3 Key Health Care Issues to Watch in Albany This Year

All eyes are turned to Washington as the likely repeal of the Affordable Care Act could result in dramatic changes to the health care landscape. With the start of the 2017 Legislative session and the impending release of the Executive Budget, there are three key issues in New York that could also dramatically affect the cost of health insurance, putting even more people at risk.



## Higher Taxes on Health Insurance

Taxes on health insurance have grown dramatically over the last 20 budget cycles – now totaling **\$4.7 billion**. They are already the largest business tax that employers and individuals pay. Raising taxes on health insurance increases the cost of premiums.



## Widening Hospital Inequality

While some hospitals are struggling, others are very prosperous. New York should not keep pouring money into thriving hospitals that drive up health care spending and health insurance costs. Albany should focus on improving access and quality of care.



## Rising Drug Costs

While the huge spikes in the cost of the EpiPen are well known, drug costs continue to rise due to extremely high initial pricing, unpredictable price hikes, and efforts to dissuade the use of more cost-efficient, quality alternatives such as generic medications. Increases in pharmaceutical costs are a major driver of health insurance costs.

Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature must take the appropriate actions to ensure the affordability of health insurance for New Yorkers.

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