



**Suburban
Hospital Alliance**
of New York State, LLC

OPPOSITION MEMO

Date: May 9, 2022
To: Members, Hudson Valley and Long Island Legislative Delegations
From: Wendy Darwell, President and CEO
A.6058 – on Assembly Codes Agenda, 5/10/22
S.5474 – in Senate Health Committee

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, which represents hospitals and health systems in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, opposes A.6058/S.5474, the New York Health Act, which would create a government-run, single-payer healthcare system that would replace all public and private health coverage in the state.

Hospitals and health systems steadfastly support universal access to affordable coverage. We have advocated on behalf of consumers for repeated expansions to the Medicaid program, for establishment and expansion of New York's Essential Plan, and for comprehensive, affordable insurance plans offered by the New York State of Health marketplace. Over the past year, we've urged our congressional delegation to make permanent enhanced subsidies to reduce the cost of premiums for plans in the marketplace, and supported efforts in the state budget to extend Medicaid coverage to undocumented New York residents.

The New York Health Act would upend the progress that New York has made over the past decade. It would force New Yorkers out of their current Medicare, union- and employer-sponsored health plans into a state-run plan – if the federal government would agree to allow it, which is highly unlikely. The cost to design and implement this plan is enormous, requiring \$139 billion in new state taxes, according to a RAND Corporation study conducted in 2018. It would also be devastating for providers, assuming that the reimbursement rates will be similar to those of Medicaid. Medicaid pays providers less than two-thirds of the cost of providing care. If every patient were to be covered by the single-payer plan, it would be impossible for many providers to stay in business. The result will be replacing one problem with another: fewer providers and therefore less access to care.

We should be building on New York's incredible success in expanding coverage, not tearing it down. Ninety-five percent of New York's population is already insured. We instead should be focused on closing the gaps to ensure that the remaining 5 percent have access to affordable and quality care.