



## new york state **RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE, INC.**

COMMITTEE

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**New York State Right to Life and our affiliates throughout the state strongly oppose the New York Health Act, A6058/S5474, because it threatens lives in several ways, including the following:**

- It eliminates the right of the vast majority of New Yorkers to purchase or negotiate through their employer for a private health insurance plan that meets the specific needs of them or their family members. **Currently, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses have many choices of insurance plans to fit their specific needs. The New York Health Act eliminates these options** – under the bill, private insurers will be banned from offering these policies.
- The bill puts all of a family's health coverage decisions in the hands of the state Health Department, the agency responsible for the loss of thousands of lives in New York's nursing homes. **Such power concentrated in one agency, especially when the cost for the program is projected to be unsustainable, threatens rationing of even life-saving care on a massive scale.**
- **The bill prohibits any participating New York doctor from accepting payment for needed treatment previously denied payment by the state, even if a patient or their family offers to pay for the needed care out of their own pocket.** Imagine looking your doctor in the eye and being told that he or she can't treat your parent, your loved one, your child, when you are willing to pay for the treatment yourself.
- The bill empowers the state to set rates of pay to health care providers. Providers will have virtually no bargaining power with the state, with consumers, and very little with their suppliers. **This almost guarantees a crisis of shortage of health professionals and health services in the state. That will lead to long waits for treatment, which is life-threatening for many medical conditions.**
- The bill even gives the state the power to set charge rates if a health care provider wants to purchase medical equipment. In other countries with such restrictions, access to needed equipment such as X-ray and MRI/CAT/PET machines, vital tests, etc. is rationed and sharply limited, even to those most in need of the procedures.

**This bill would drastically limit patient options, skew treatment decisions, and result in massive health care rationing, especially threatening the lives of elderly, disabled, and chronically ill New Yorkers. Please vote NO on the New York Health Act, A6058/S5474.**

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