



MARK P. AMODEO
Director of Government Affairs

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New York State Insurance Department
Partnership for Coverage
Suite 1700
One Commerce Plaza
Albany, New York 12257

Dear Superintendent Dinallo and Commissioner Daines:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the instructions that will guide the modeling proposals to expand health insurance coverage in New York State. I offer general comments in this letter, and will submit a more detailed response after conferring with Business Council members on the four reform proposals.

As I communicated in my testimony presented at the first Partnership for Coverage hearing in September 2007, The Business Council is committed to being part of the on-going dialogue on an issue that our members have identified as their top cost-of-doing-business concern: the cost of health care and how to pay for it.

I wish to confirm The Business Council's support for the incremental approach taken by the State as it considers expanding health insurance coverage in New York. In addition, we appreciate that each reform proposal being modeled will be analyzed for its ability to improve the state's economy and the competitiveness of New York's businesses. After all, the escalating costs of health care and health coverage are hurting New York's economic growth.

We also appreciate that the increased use of preventive medicine will be a component in the analysis. Business Council members have identified preventive care – as well as evidence-based medicine – as important elements to reducing costs, promoting value and helping ensure that what we spend on health care and health coverage as employers is well and wisely spent.

With the breadth of membership that we represent, from many small businesses to New York's largest and oldest employers, we look forward to being part of the discussion.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Amodeo

