



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

Senate Bill 5474 (Senator Rivera) / Assembly Bill 6058 (Assemblyman Gottfried)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW AND THE STATE FINANCE LAW, IN
RELATION TO ENACTING THE "NEW YORK HEALTH ACT" AND ESTABLISHING
NEW YORK HEALTH**

Date: 5/9/2022

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm advocacy organization, urges you to oppose the above referenced legislation. This bill would create a universal single payer health plan, which would almost triple the size of our current state budget, negatively impact the business sector and remove the ability for New York residents to choose their insurance coverage.

Our concerns regarding this legislation focus upon the creation of a massive new payroll tax (2 percent on employees, 8 percent on employers and 10 percent on the self-employed with additional surcharges on other taxable income, now including capital gains). Given New York's current economic situation, including in the farm sector, a 10 percent levy on payrolls and other surcharges, with an estimated price tag nearing \$250 billion annually, now is the very worst time to even contemplate such an extreme reinvention of our current health system.

This bill would also make group health insurance coverage illegal in New York State, prohibiting the issuance of insurance policies that "duplicate" coverage offered to individuals under the New York Health Plan. In this one provision, this bill eliminates an entire industry sector in New York and eliminates coverage choice and options for the vast majority of New Yorkers.

In addition, a number of farms in New York are small family-owned businesses would fall under the "self-employed" category, potentially creating a huge expense for them when they can currently purchase insurance from the NY health exchange for themselves and their families.

This bill will restrict health care choices for New Yorkers, potentially diminish the quality of healthcare in the State and increase the tax burden for every working New Yorker.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your opposition to this legislation.