



Talking Point Testimony for the New York Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for inviting us to testify today.

My name is Sulma Arzu-Brown, Director of Operations for the NYC Chamber of Commerce — the only city wide Hispanic Chamber dedicated to the success of Hispanic businesses and the communities they serve.

Our member companies are owned and staffed by people who live in your communities. We support the goal of making sure all New Yorkers have access to quality health care coverage. However, we believe that the New York Health Act single payer proposal, which we understand would be paid for through huge tax increases — including a payroll tax where employers would be required to pick up 80% of that cost — is the wrong approach. It would be devastating to our members and, in turn, to the people and communities they serve.

As noted, we support universal coverage and New York has made significant strides toward achieving that goal since the adoption of the Affordable Care Act in 2011, reducing the state's uninsured rate to under 5%. We believe that we should focus our energies on getting the remaining uninsured covered and encourage lawmakers to consider policies that improve upon our existing health care system.

New York State and New York City are already difficult places for businesses to make a go of it, and our members acutely feel the challenges of continuing to operate here. One of the biggest challenges is the taxes businesses already pay. Adding a new, significant tax burden would have a devastating effect on the small business community that we serve.

Employers take pride in investing in their employees in their communities. This proposal will make it impossible for the majority of our members to do just that. We are concerned this one-size-fits-all approach will make it harder for our members to live and work in New York City.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you today.