



OPPOSE

A 6058 (Gottfried) / S 5474 (Rivera) The “New York Health Act”

AFSCME and its affiliates have supported universal health care for decades. Our union has been in the forefront nationally in the fight for the Affordable Care Act, expansions of Medicaid, Medicare Part D, and numerous other federal and state laws that have expanded access to health care and insurance for millions of Americans. We believe that every person in our country should have access to quality health care services without fear of going bankrupt or being denied access to vital and critical services. We remain committed to this goal.

However, AFSCME must oppose this proposal. This legislation lacks crucial information, including the cost of the program, which could leave employees on the hook for paying substantially more than their current health insurance.

To pay for the unknown cost of the program, this legislation would create various new taxes, including an employee payroll tax. However, this legislation does not state how much this new employee tax will be. It is irresponsible to pass legislation containing a new tax of an unknown amount for employees to pay.

Most importantly for our union, this legislation would disregard all health insurance-related provisions in collective bargaining agreements currently in place in the public and private sector. Unionized employees routinely negotiate less in pay to maintain or improve their health insurance. **This legislation would ignore decades of such sacrifices at the negotiating table by requiring employees to pay a new payroll tax, even if it will cost them more than they currently pay pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.**

In its current form, this proposal leaves too many questions unanswered, and would fundamentally alter tens of thousands of collective bargaining agreements throughout our state.

On behalf of the nearly 400,000 public and non-profit workers that AFSCME represents in New York State we must OPPOSE this legislation.