



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Liz Krueger

## Senate Expands EPIC Eligibility

LIZ KRUEGER May 27, 2009

| ISSUE: **INSURANCE**

More New York Seniors Now Qualify for this Prescription Drug Program

(Albany, NY)—Senator Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan) announced that the New York State Senate passed S.1839 this week. Senator Krueger co-sponsored this legislation which expands the income eligibility of the EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage) program. The bill is currently awaiting action in the Assembly.

"Expanding the income eligibility for Epic will allow more than 5,000 additional New York seniors to access this proven program and gain much needed savings for their prescription drugs at their local pharmacies," said Senator Krueger.

More than 300,000 New York seniors are now eligible for EPIC benefits and save an average of 80% of the cost of their prescription drugs. EPIC is used in conjunction with Medicare Part D to lower drug costs.

"This legislation maintains the Senate Democrats' commitment to affordable healthcare and

I am very pleased that in this difficult time for our economy, we are able to take care of our seniors," said Senator Krueger. "No one should have to go without the medications they need simply because they cannot afford their prescriptions. This bill will help people remain healthy and active."

Currently, the eligibility requirements for EPIC are \$35,000 for an individual and \$50,000 for a couple. This legislation expands the income eligibility to \$50,000 for an individual and \$75,000 for a couple.

"This legislation recognizes the daunting increases in medical costs facing seniors and offers a thoughtful solution," concluded Senator Krueger