



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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Fight For A Public Option

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN September 29, 2009

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Although the U.S. Senate Finance Committee today rejected several amendments to create a public option to compete with the private insurance industry, the fight for real, robust health care reform is not over yet.

Our country's private health care system is a catastrophic failure. The insurance industry has been thriving on the backs of sick Americans for far too long – and politicians are allowing them to do it.

A public option is critical because it would have the scale and bargaining power to negotiate lower prices from health care providers – and would push private insurers to get the same deals.

Today's setback is disappointing, but I believe **the fight for a public option is winnable.** According to the most recent CBS News poll, over 65% of Americans want a health care reform bill that includes a public option. President Obama supports it, the House of Representatives supports it and a majority of U.S. Senators supports it, too.

A bipartisan plan is a worthy goal, but we cannot be held hostage to the Republicans' obstructionist tactics and the insurance industry's lobbying blitz. **It's time to move forward with a budget reconciliation process that only requires a 51-vote majority.**

Make your voice heard and join me in standing up for a strong public option that puts people before profits.