



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## TAXPAYERS BEWARE

THOMAS F. O'MARA February 23, 2015



A mid-January report from the state comptroller's office found that the state Department of Health (DOH) wrongly paid more than 29,000 pharmacy claims, worth nearly \$1 million, for thousands of Medicaid recipients already covered by managed care plans.

And just last week, a second comptroller's report found that the DOH failed to collect an estimated \$120 million in available rebates from prescription drug makers.

These are the findings that drive state taxpayers crazy.

For more than a decade, various reports have highlighted wasteful Medicaid spending. Time and again, New York's system has been characterized as one of the nation's most expensive and wasteful, continually plagued by rip-offs and scams.

Ten years ago, Medicaid spending was roughly \$42 billion annually. Now, the cost is about to increase to \$60 a year.

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