



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Luis R. Sepúlveda

## Senator Sepúlveda Advocates for Public Health and Equality with Successful Passage of Bill Prohibiting Discrimination by Child Health Insurance Providers

RUSKING PIMENTEL June 7, 2023

| ISSUE: **ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, CHILD HEALTH PLUS, HEALTH INSURANCE**



Albany, NY- Senator Sepúlveda proudly announces the successful passage of Senate Bill S4922, an essential piece of legislation aimed at safeguarding the rights of healthcare providers and ensuring equal access to quality care for all children. This bill amends the public health law, specifically addressing the practices of approved organizations within the Child Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) network.

Under the title "An act to amend the public health law, in relation to prohibiting approved organizations in the child health insurance plan from limiting the participation of certain healthcare providers," the bill makes a resolute stance against discriminatory practices that have hindered the provision of healthcare services to uninsured children.

This groundbreaking legislation prohibits approved organizations providing coverage under the Child Health Insurance Plan from discriminating against healthcare providers who choose not to participate in the organization's commercial healthcare network. By doing so, we empower healthcare professionals to serve uninsured children through the Child Health Insurance Program without being coerced into joining commercial health maintenance organizations.

Child Health Plus is a crucial publicly funded insurance assistance program designed to cater to the healthcare needs of children with limited or no insurance coverage. Unfortunately, certain insurance companies administering this program have exploited it as a means to advance their commercial, profit-oriented activities. These companies have enforced mandatory participation in their commercial health maintenance organization programs, effectively blocking healthcare providers who refuse to join from delivering state-funded care to uninsured children.

With the passage of this bill, we put an end to this discriminatory practice and ensure that doctors who genuinely want to serve uninsured children through the Child Health Plus program can do so without being subjected to coercion. By empowering healthcare professionals to exercise their autonomy, we expand the choices available to families in need, providing them with greater access to a diverse range of pediatricians and healthcare providers.

Senator Sepúlveda is resolute in their commitment to the health and well-being of every child in our community. "This bill is a critical step towards building a fair and inclusive healthcare system," said Senator Sepúlveda. "No healthcare provider should be denied the opportunity to offer state-funded care to uninsured children simply because they choose not to participate in a commercial HMO. By passing this bill, we are championing equality, empowering families, and ensuring that the healthcare needs of all children are met."

The successful passage of Senate Bill S4922 marks a significant milestone in the fight for equitable healthcare provision. Senator Sepúlveda extends their sincere appreciation to their colleagues in the Senate for their support and dedication to this crucial cause.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2023-S4922**

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly

- Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Prohibits approved providers of child health insurance coverage from discriminating against health care providers not participating in the insurer's network

February 17, 2023

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Luis R. Sepúlveda**

Do you support this bill?