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## 2020 Legislative Session Look Ahead

Once the holiday season comes to a close, state legislators will reconvene in Albany for the start of the 2020 Legislative Session. To prepare for session, lawmakers have been holding public hearings statewide. These hearings have focused on the cost of public higher education, the Foundation Aid formula for elementary and secondary education, and community health crises such as the opioid abuse epidemic, among other key state issues.

In a renewed advocacy effort, some members of the State Legislature also have been gathering medical professionals, parents, and the elderly and infirm to testify at public hearings about the New York Health Act. This proposed legislation would establish a universal, single-payer healthcare system in New York. Advocates insist the bill would help correct a crisis of underinsurance in the state. However, we know there are strong opinions on both sides of the issue. Many MACNY members and statewide business organizations have expressed concern that such a proposal would have a serious impact on employers, by driving up taxes and costs and leading to potential job losses.

In 2018, a study by the RAND Corporation projected that financing the system would entail a tax increase of more than 150 percent. It found that “after redirection of federal and state healthcare outlays to New York Health (NYH), the additional state tax revenue needed to finance the program in 2022 would be \$139 billion, a 156-percent increase over projected total state tax revenue in the status quo.” To read more about these findings and other related articles, please visit [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org).

The State Legislature could decide to take up the measure in the new year. Therefore, we will continue to monitor this proposed legislation, among many others, as the 2020 Legislative Session begins in January.

To help ensure we are accurately advocating on behalf of all our members on distinct issues, I will be sending out an online legislative survey that I strongly encourage you to complete and return to me by the beginning of the new year. In addition, we will be holding monthly government relations phone calls to discuss issues on a regular basis and strengthen our advocacy efforts. An e-mail reminder will be sent, and I look forward to your participation. If you are interested, you can also contact me at 315-474-4201 ext. 13.