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May 15, 2006 Update

Members should note that a **Joint Public Hearing Notice** for the referenced public hearing on the "**Wal-Mart/Fair Share**" bills, is to be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room "B" of the Legislative Office Building in Albany. For more information: <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/comm/Health/20060509/>. If NYSAHU would like to testify, we need to contact Bryan O'Malley in Assemblymember Dick Gottfried's office ASAP, to be invited to the Hearing. Contact Tom Fiast at: [Tfaist@aol.com](mailto:Tfaist@aol.com).

## **A couple of recent bills of interest to NYSAHU:**

1. S.7676 (Padavan) - <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=S07676&sh=t>  
Senator Frank Padavan (R-Queens) has just introduced a Massachusetts-type bill, which would require all New York residents to obtain health insurance. The bill was committed to the Senate Health Committee; there is currently no Assembly companion bill. S.7676 will probably be considered, along with the so-called "Fair Share/Wal-Mart" bills, at the upcoming Senate public hearing on health care to be scheduled for the first week of June.
2. A.6575 (Gottfried) - <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A06575&sh=t>  
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) has placed A.6575 on his Assembly Health Committee agenda for Tuesday, May 2, 2006 @ 1:00 p.m. This bill would create a legislative commission on health coverage reform, to study and make recommendations for comprehensive health coverage for all New Yorkers. This bill, together with A.6576 (Gottfried) to establish the New York Health Plan, a single-payer/universal health care system (<http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A06576&sh=t>), is being pushed by the New York chapters of Physicians for a National Health Plan and allied health activists such as the Hunger Action Network, churches, synagogues, labor organizations, universities, etc. A.6575 currently has no Senate companion bill.

Three other measures to keep a watchful eye on are, S.B. 3151 by Senator Seward, S.B. 1221 by Senator Breslin and A.B. 4417 by Assembly Member Grannis, that address the licensure of insurance producers are pending in New York. All of these bills would make the state's current licensing statutes compliant with the NAIC Single Producer Licensing Model Act, and they are all pending in the Insurance Committees

of their respective chambers.

Five long-term care tax incentive bills are also awaiting action in the state. S.B. 3376, by Senator Alesi, would allow state residents to deduct the amount paid for premiums for qualified long-term care insurance policies from their state income tax liability. This bill was assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee on March 6, 2001. An identical measure, known as A.B. 6025 by Assembly Member Kaufman, has been assigned to the Assembly Insurance Committee.

A.B. 5325, which was authored by Assembly Member Morelle, would create long-term care tax credits for businesses as well as individuals. Assembly Member Matusow's bill, A.B. 4355, would establish allow taxpayers to include monies paid for health insurance and long-term care insurance premiums in their medical expense deduction when determining state income tax liability. Finally, Assembly Member Tedisco introduced A.B. 3106. This bill would create a long-term care tax credit for state residents over age 55. The credit would equal 10 percent of the amount paid for long-term care insurance premiums during the taxable year. All of these bills have been assigned to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

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