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Memorandum in Support
An act to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring health insurance plans
provide coverage for epinephrine auto-injectors devices
A6425 (O'Donnell) /S7114 (Rivera)

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians strongly supports A6425(O'Donnell) /S7114 (Rivera) which requires insurance coverage for epinephrine auto-injectors ("epi-pens") and sets an annual cost-sharing cap.

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (NYACEP) represents over 3,000 dedicated emergency medicine physicians committed to speaking out for broad access to quality health care, especially emergency health services for all citizens. Studies by NIH and Blue Cross Blue Shield showed that emergency department visits by children having serious anaphylactic reactions have more than doubled during the 2010s. This increase occurred during the same timeframe that epi-pen prices began to dramatically increase. The rising cost of an epinephrine auto-injector, or "epi-pen" has far outpaced inflation in recent years. In 2010, the most common price for a two-pack of epi-pens was approximately \$100. Today, the generic version will almost always cost upwards of \$350, and the brand name can cost upwards of \$700. Many people are forced to risk not having the device during a life-threatening emergency.

An epinephrine auto-injector significantly mitigates the risk of death from a serious allergic reaction. Without mandated coverage and a reasonable cost-sharing cap, the accessibility of these life-saving devices is beyond the means of millions of New Yorkers. By mandating insurance plans to provide coverage for epi-pens and capping the annual cost at \$100 for two pens, these life-saving devices will be more widely accessible for those who need it.

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians believes that access to essential medication should not be contingent on income level. We respectfully ask for your support of A6425 (O'Donnell) /S7114 (Rivera) to help ensure that this lifesaving medication is accessible to all who need it.