



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

VETO # 238

December 18, 2017

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 5661-B, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the enhanced safety net hospital program”

Senate Bill Number 5662-A, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to medical assistance payments for care in hospice residences”

Senate Bill Number 6559, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to payment for reserved bed days in residential health care facilities; and to repeal paragraph (f) of subdivision 2-c of section 2808 of such law relating to prospective per diem adjustments for certain nursing homes”

Senate Bill Number 6732, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to increasing the enhanced residential care benefits for aged, blind and disabled persons”

NOT APPROVED

These bills would amend various provisions of the Public Health Law and the Social Services Law to increase Medicaid and other State reimbursement rates for various health care providers as well as to expand eligibility for certain Medicaid benefits.

While I fully support the objectives underlying these bills, the proposed increases are not supported by any identifiable funding source. Collectively, these bills would add hundreds of millions of dollars in increased and unbudgeted costs to the State's budget, which will ultimately be shouldered by the State's taxpayers. Decisions impacting the scope and efficacy of Medicaid funding, both in terms of revenue available and appropriations to be expended, have always been, and should continue to be, addressed in the context of annual budget negotiations. At a time when the Federal Government has enacted, and is threatening additional, devastating cuts to the State's health care system, it would be irresponsible to incur such unbudgeted costs outside of that process. For these reasons, I am constrained to veto these bills. As part of the budget process, I am directing the Department of Health to work with stakeholders and the Legislature to address concerns related to the scope and adequacy of reimbursement to health care providers.

These bills are disapproved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cuomo".