Local Business Relief Coalition Announces Two New Members

The Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) Join a Diverse Group of Organizations in Support of Local Businesses

Albany, NY— The Local Business Relief Coalition, advocating for affordable healthcare and sustainable local businesses, welcomes two new members: **the Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York)**. Together, they will help address the rising healthcare costs affecting New York's local businesses.

"BNMA and ACEC New York joining our coalition amplifies our call for urgent action on healthcare affordability for small and local businesses," **said the Local Business Relief Coalition.** "We urge Governor Hochul and the Legislature to implement reforms that control skyrocketing healthcare costs to better support local businesses and their employees. These changes are crucial for our communities and economy."

Healthcare inflation has significantly outpaced general inflation, with medical care prices increasing 121.3%, compared to an 86.1% increase for all other consumer goods and services since 2000. This trend has been particularly difficult for New York's local businesses, which pay health insurance premiums 23% higher than the U.S. average.

To address these issues, the coalition proposes several reforms to stymie the exponential growth in costs attributed to hospital mergers and acquisitions and the consolidation of doctors' practices by the same, to assess their impact on healthcare costs before they occur, implementing greater transparency measures on healthcare charges, disallowing outlandish mark-ups on medications in the hospital setting and enacting fairness in practices that impact the affordability of care.

The Local Business Relief Coalition urges Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to finally prioritize controlling the actual costs of healthcare that continue to lead to unaffordable coverage for local businesses.

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About the Local Business Relief Coalition

The Local Business Relief Coalition is a diverse group of business organizations, representing businesses of all sizes around New York State. The coalition aims to educate lawmakers about the realities and effects of the affordability crisis in New York, particularly regarding employee health insurance for small and local businesses.

Coalition members include:

- Associated Building Contractors (ABC)
- Associated General Contractors of New York State
- Empire State Forest Products Association
- Food Industry Alliance of New York State (FIA)
- National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals – New York State Chapter (NABIP New York)
- National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
- New York Association of Convenience Stores (NYACS)
- New York City Black Chamber of Commerce
- New York Health Plan Association (NYHPA)
- New York State Conference of Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans (NYSCOP)
- New York State Restaurant Association (NYSRA)
- Northeast Dairy Foods & Suppliers Associations
- Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA)
- Small Business Majority
- The Business Council of New York State (BCNYS)
- Upstate United