



**New York State Association of
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Memorandum in Support of S. 1839

**An Act to amend the elder law, in relation to eligibility levels in the
elderly pharmaceutical insurance coverage program**

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NYSAAAA) supports S. 1839, legislation to increase income eligibility levels in the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance (EPIC) program.

The current income eligibility in the EPIC Program for those 65 years and older is limited to no more than \$35,000 annually for single individuals and no more than \$50,000 annually for married couples. This legislation will increase those levels to no more than \$50,000 annually for an unmarried person, and no more than \$75,000 annually for a married couple.

Prescription drugs account for the largest single source of out-of-pocket health care costs for Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation is needed to lessen the harsh economic impact prescription drug costs have on senior citizens by increasing income eligibility levels.

For the above reasons, NYSAAAA supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Cameron
Executive Director