



**New York State Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging**

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April 26, 2004

Julie A. Naglieri  
Acting Director  
Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program  
One Corporate Plaza  
260 Washington Avenue Extension, Suite 101  
Albany, NY 12203

Dear Ms. Naglieri,

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging supports an auto-enrollment process for low-income EPIC enrollees into the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) under Medicare. Furthermore, we believe that the EPIC program should establish a **single Medicare discount card for EPIC enrollees** that could also serve as the senior's \$600 Medicare benefit card. Our network of Area Agencies on Aging operate the Health Insurance & Information Counseling Assistance Program (HIICAP), and providing a single card would streamline the process for both the seniors and the HIICAP counselors providing assistance to them.

With over thirty cards currently available, as well as confusion about the enrollment process, many seniors may not take advantage of TAP benefits. NYSAAAA believes that coordinating EPIC with a single card would simplify the process and benefit a much higher number of eligible individuals than if EPIC coordinates with multiple card sponsors.

In order to minimize consumer confusion and maximize consumer participation, EPIC should contract with a single card sponsor and automatically enroll eligible individuals for TAP under Medicare. EPIC has a long history of providing comprehensive drug benefits to the seniors of our state, and we look forward to working with you to ensure a seamless system for EPIC enrollees when the new Medicare provisions are implemented.

Sincerely,

Thomas Yandeu  
President

John Beale  
Chair, Legislative Committee

Laura A. Cameron  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Joseph L. Bruno, Senate Majority Leader  
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker  
Hon. Alan Hevesi, NYS Comptroller  
Hon. Kemp Hannon, Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
Hon. Martin Golden, Chair, Senate Aging Committee  
Hon. Steve Englebright, Chair, Assembly Aging Committee  
Robert Hinckley, Governor's Office  
Mark Kissinger, Governor's Office  
David Wollner, Governor's Office  
Neal Lane, Acting Director, NYSOFA  
Laurie Pferr, Deputy Director, NYSOFA