A.2269 (Peoples-Stokes)

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to coverage of annual chlamydia screenings

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports extending insurance coverage for annual chlamydia screenings for men and women.

According to the NY State Department of Health, chlamydia is among the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STD) with more than 50 million cases worldwide and approximately three million cases occurring in the United States yearly. In New York State, over 95,803 cases of chlamydia, at a rate of 490 per 100,000 population, were reported in 2013.

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that is spread through sexual contact with an infected person. Age groups at highest risk for contracting chlamydia include adolescents and young adults (ages 15-24) who have new or multiple sex partners and who do not consistently use condoms or other barrier contraception. Undiagnosed, Chlamydia can result in pelvic inflammatory disease in women, with long-term damage to the reproductive system, leading to increased risk for ectopic pregnancies or inability to get pregnant.

This bill will help improve diagnosis and treatment of Chlamydia and reduce the spread of this disease. In addition, coverage for annual chlamydia screenings will encourage sexually active men and women under the age of 26 to get tested annually who do not currently do so.

For the reasons stated above, NYSACHO supports this legislation and recommends it be enacted into law.

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