

Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 7 pm
Tibbett Towers
(3125 Tibbett Ave)

Guest Speaker
ASSEMBLY MEMBER RICHARD GOTTFRIED
Chair, Health Committee



Richard N. Gottfried represents the 75th Assembly District, covering Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, Murray Hill, Midtown and part of Lincoln Center. He has been chair of the Assembly Health Committee since 1987 and is a leading health policymaker in New York and the nation. He was a major architect of New York's landmark managed-care reforms, and continues to fight for stronger protections for consumers and health care providers, and public support for universal access to quality, affordable health care.

Assembly Member Gottfried is the prime sponsor of the New York Health Act (A. 4738) to establish a single-payer system in New York. He has written:

"The basic flaw in the Affordable Care Act is that it leaves us in the hands of insurance companies. That means rising premiums and deductibles, restricted provider networks and high out-of-network charges; huge multiple administrative bureaucracies and profits; and the costs that doctors and hospitals incur for dealing with them.

"We should start with a basic principle: No American should be denied health care or suffer financially trying to pay for it. What makes that "tricky" — and forces health policy into contortions — is insisting on taking care of insurance companies and their hefty costs and finances.

"The one way to provide all of us with health care and financial security that is most practical and least expensive is to take insurance companies out of the picture and enact improved Medicare for all.

"Washington seems a long way from doing that. But progressive states like New York can create state universal public health coverage."

(New York Times, Letter to the Editor. Aug. 16, 2017)

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