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Welcome to The Central New York Business Journal

**Wednesday, November 25, 2009**

[Andy Biernat](#) | [Logout](#)

# BUSINESS JOURNAL

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### Use current government health programs before creating giant new plan

4 days ago by *Andrew F. Biernat*  
To the Editor:

Health-industry experts say there are 11 million U.S. citizens who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP [State Children's Health Insurance Program], but are not enrolled.

It begs the question: Why is Congress crafting plans to spend billions of taxpayer dollars to design new government programs when people aren't enrolled in the ones they've already created?

As a president-elect of the New York State Association of Health Underwriters, I urge Congress to find ways to sign up low-income citizens in existing programs before we design a new layer of government bureaucracy at great expense.

Once we've maximized the potential of the current programs, then we can identify the gaps, focusing on cutting health-care costs through a combination of tort reform, creation of electronic medical records, and preventive care, among other cost-effective solutions.

The House bill, recently passed by a razor-thin margin in the wee hours of the morning, does little to control costs and the much-ballyhooped "public plan" is now expected to charge higher premiums than compatible private plans. The Affordable Health Care for America Act merely shifts around the numbers and does precious little to make health care more affordable.

Let's build on the health-care system we already have, before creating even more burdens for taxpayers.

Andrew F. Biernat  
New Hartford

*Editor's note:* Andrew F. Biernat is the president-elect of the New York Association of Health Underwriters and co-founder and vice president of Meridian Group of New York, Inc., in Utica. Contact him at (315) 368-0404.

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### FEATURED CHANNEL

#### Breaking News CNYBJ

##### Lockheed lands \$17.8 million Air Force contract

Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) has won a \$17.8 million contract from the U.S. Air Force for a software upgrade that integrates communications and situational awareness capabilities into the A-10C fighter.

### CHANNELS

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### OPINIONS

#### FROM THE PUBLISHER


##### Fuzzy Math Produces Stimulus Jobs

*Figures often beguile me, particularly when I have the arranging of them to myself.*

- Mark Twain

Mark Twain penned the above quote in his 1907 book: "Chapters from My Auto-biography."

Twain also wrote in his autobiography that there were three degrees of untruth: lies, damned lies, and statistics. Two weeks ago, President



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Barack Obama tore a page from Twain's book.

#### **ROMBEL ON BUSINESS BLOG**

##### **To Party or Not to Party?**

Planning a company holiday party this year? If the answer is no, you're not alone.



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#### **VIEWPOINTS/OP-EDS**

##### **Should You Make the Move to Windows 7?**

Every time Microsoft, developer of the most popular personal-computer operating systems on the planet, comes up with a new version of Windows, computer users wrestle with the question of whether they should upgrade.

The answer, in short, is yes - if it's time to buy a new computer, which will have Windows 7 preinstalled. But no, it doesn't make a lot of sense for most users to upgrade an existing computer from Windows Vista or Windows XP to Windows 7.

#### **ON THE MOVE**

##### **People on the Move - CNY 11/20/2009 ACCOUNTING**

Green & Seifert, Certified Public Accountants, PLLC has hired Michael G. Lisson as senior manager in the firm's audit practice. With more than 15 years of public accounting experience, Lisson managed relationships for a diverse portfolio of clients in the audit and business advisory services department at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. He is a CPA in New York and Pennsylvania and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and New York State and Pennsylvania Society of Certified Public Accountants. Lisson is a graduate and a member of the School of Business Advisory Board for SUNY Oswego.

#### **MARKET RESEARCH**

##### **Top Ranks Lists**

The 2008 Book of Lists electronic edition may be downloaded in Excel format. These 57 lists include key business information (when available) such as number of employees, revenue, products/services offered, and top executives for each company.

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