



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Martin Malavé Dilan

## New Pfizer Inc. Program Gives Families Access to Free Medication

MARTIN MALAVÉ DILAN May 19, 2009

| ISSUE: **HEALTH**

*Helps to maintain prescription coverage despite loss of job*

(Albany, NY)—Senator Martin Malavé Dilan (D-Brooklyn) is spreading the word of yet another prescription assistance program, this time by the graces of private industry.

Pfizer Inc., recently announced that it will help families who have lost health insurance maintain access to any Pfizer drugs prescribed to them at no cost. The new program, Medicines Assistance for Those who Are in Need (**MAINTAIN**), gives access to Pfizer medicines for free to eligible unemployed Americans and their families.

“Unfortunately when people lose their jobs, health insurance tends to follow suit. Some depend on these name brand drugs to treat medical conditions and maintain a certain quality of life,” said Senator Dilan. “This should offer some light at the end of the tunnel.”

Last month the New York State Department of Health introduced New York Prescription \$aver (NYP\$), a free discount card that can help reduce the cost of prescriptions for lower income New York residents. Visit: <http://nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com> or call the toll-free helpline at 1-800-788-6917 for more information.

Pfizer's program allows access to Pfizer drugs at no cost for up to one year. The program is open to people who have lost their jobs on or after January 1, 2009 and will remain open for enrollment through December 31, 2009. There is no income cut off.

Eligibility requirements of the new program include:

- Loss of employment since January 1, 2009;
- Prescribed and taking a Pfizer medicine for at least 3 months prior to becoming unemployed and enrolling in the program;
- Lack of prescription drug coverage;
- Can attest to financial hardship.

"Please take the time to learn if you qualify for this program. Just because you have suffered the blow of unemployment at the hands of this economic crisis doesn't mean you have to, nor should you, suffer from treatable conditions," said Senator Dilan.

The new program will be in full swing July 1, 2009. However, people who need immediate assistance can call 1-866-706-2400.