



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph E. Robach

EPIC Coverage Income Eligibility Expanded in 2014-2015 New York State Budget

JOSEPH E. ROBACH April 30, 2014

| ISSUE: **EPIC (ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE PROGRAM)**

I have heard from hundreds of senior citizens and families about the importance of the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC), and the impact it has on their daily lives. EPIC is a New York State program that helps more than 270,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. As your State Senator, I understand how difficult it is for individuals living on a fixed income to keep up with the high cost of the prescription drugs they need.

That is why I am pleased to inform you that the final 2014-15 State Budget provides an additional \$4.1 million within the Department of Health to expand the income eligibility for singles from \$35,000 to \$75,000, and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for married enrollees, in the EPIC program. This additional funding will provide more seniors with the opportunity to take advantage of this prescription drug cost savings plan. I know how important EPIC is to the seniors in our community, and that's why I helped lead the fight to expand this vital program for thousands more.

For seniors that have questions about EPIC, the Department of Health maintains a toll-free EPIC Helpline, which is available from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Seniors can call 1-800-332-3742 (TTY 1-800-290-9138) or visit the [EPIC website](#) for more information, or to request an EPIC application. You may also send your questions in via e-mail to epic@health.state.ny.us.

As always, please feel free to contact my office directly regarding any issue of concern to you and your family.