

October 6, 2026, HBR Alert!



State Health Plan Response to Atrium's New Program

This email was sent to State Health Plan members as well.

The State Health Plan's 2027 tiered provider network was designed to preserve access to care while encouraging competition and controlling costs. That work is essential to putting the Plan on a more sustainable financial path.

Atrium's new program may appear to lower out-of-pocket costs for some members in the Charlotte and Triad areas, but those lower costs do not make care less expensive. Under the program, the State Health Plan would pay more and those added costs would have to be shared across all Plan members.

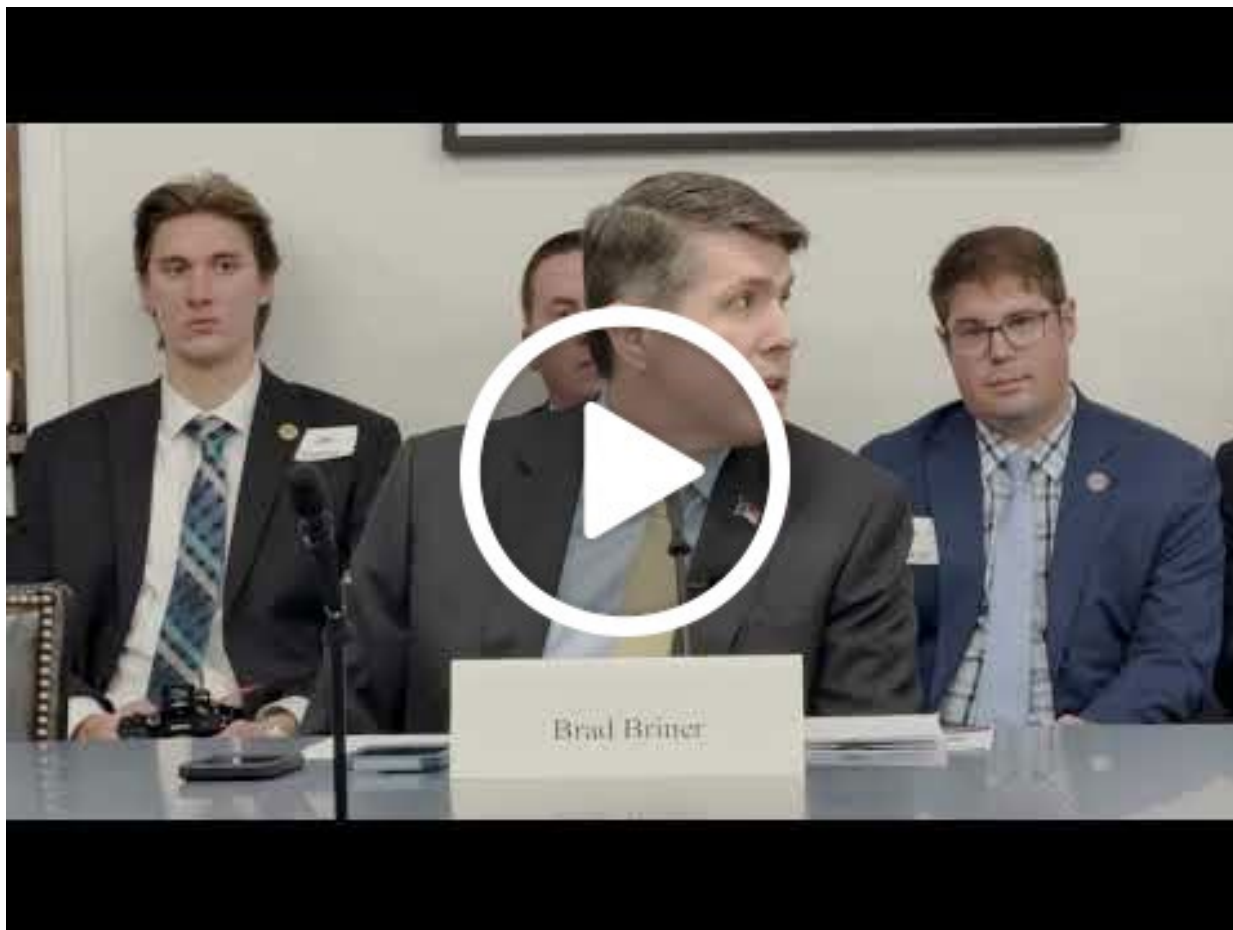
The State Health Plan's financial outlook remains volatile. The savings expected from the tiered provider network in 2027 are needed to help contain costs and limit future premium increases. If those savings are lost while the State Health Plan's costs continue to rise, members could face higher premiums in 2028. The State Health Plan would also need additional funding from the state budget which affects all taxpayers across North Carolina.

This impact will reach members statewide, regardless of where they live or receive care. When the State Health Plan pays more in one area, all members and taxpayers face the consequences. The State Health Plan cannot absorb added costs without consequences for the people who depend on this benefit. The authority to set State Health Plan benefits rests with the State Treasurer and the Board of Trustees. Their responsibility is to protect the long-term stability of the State Health Plan while ensuring members can access care. Programs that increase State Health Plan costs threaten that work and cannot be allowed to put the Plan's financial future at further risk.

The stakes are serious: If the State Health Plan cannot control costs, the affordability and long-term future of this benefit are at risk.

As more information becomes available, it will be communicated.

State Treasurer Brad Briner spoke at the Council of State meeting this morning, hours after learning of this effort by Atrium. Click below to view.



[Official Statement →](#)

2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 12-30, 2026

