



New York State Archives

**New York State Empire Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Panel
Chairman Correspondence Files 20757**

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Table of Contents

Overview of the Records 3

Arrangement 3

Administrative History 3

Scope and Contents 4

Other Finding Aids 4

Use of Records 5

Access Terms 5

Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series documents the major activities of the Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield Panel from the chairman's perspective. Included is correspondence with other panel members; panel staff; the Governor; State legislators; representatives and officers from Blue Cross/Blue Shield; State agencies; and concerned citizens and organizations. Correspondence often pertains to topics raised at panel meetings or addressed in semi-annual or annual panel reports. Files also include press releases, memoranda, copies of legislation, drafts of briefings, and information regarding the panel's finances.
Creator:	New York (State). Empire Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Panel
Title:	Panel Chairman correspondence files
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Inclusive Date:	1993-2000
Series:	20757

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged by subject, then chronological.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative History

The Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield Panel was established by Chapter 1, Laws of 1993 (Section 4319 of Insurance Law). Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the largest health care financing organization in the United States at the time, served over seven million New Yorkers in twenty-eight counties. The organization came under public scrutiny as a result of an Arthur Andersen and Co. management audit, which found that Blue Cross/Blue Shield had severely depleted its finances due to poor management and inadequate financial performance. A 1993

law required the organization to develop a plan to restore its surplus and otherwise improve operations.

The law forming the special advisory review panel directed it to review the original audit and the criteria for future audits of Blue Cross/Blue Shield; monitor the corporation's six-year plan to restore its financial surplus; evaluate the corporation's administrative expenses and customer services; and obtain information on the financial condition of the corporation. The panel consisted of nine members, three of whom were appointed by the governor, two each by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the Assembly, and one each by the minority leaders of the Senate and Assembly. The panel's legal mandate expired in July of 2000.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

This series documents the major activities of the Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield Panel from the perspective of Chairman James J. Barba. The series includes correspondence with other panel members and panel staff; the Governor; State legislators; representatives and officers from Blue Cross/Blue Shield; State agencies, particularly the Insurance Department which plays a major role in regulating the activities Blue Cross/Blue Shield; and concerned outside organizations and citizens. Correspondence often pertains to topics raised at panel meetings or addressed in semi-annual or annual panel reports. The Chairman's files also include press releases, memoranda, copies of legislation, drafts of briefings prepared by panel staff, and information regarding the panel's finances.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Folder list is available at the repository.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

Access Terms

- Health insurance
- Insurance--State supervision--New York (State)
- Financial statements
- Monitoring
- Public health administration--New York (State)
- Reports
- Insurance companies--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- Regulating insurance
- Barba, James J.
- Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield (N.Y.)