Dr. Donald Berwick, a Democrat running for Massachusetts governor, is expected to speak at a health care forum in New York's Capital Region.

He has been announced as keynote speaker at the event addressing the issues of quality, cost and access to health care.

CDPHP, an Albany-based health insurer, and the University at Albany School of Public Health are hosting the event on June 18 at 5 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza.

Berwick is among several candidates vying to succeed Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick in November's election.

Berwick also played a key role in implementing the federal Affordable Care Act, or ACA, which is seeking to expand health insurance coverage and overhaul government regulations.

He served as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shortly after the ACA was enacted in 2010. His term leading the important federal agency ended in 2011.

Berwick is a Harvard Medical School professor and founder of Cambridge-based Institute for Healthcare Improvement, according to the Harvard website.

Berwick's speech in Albany will be followed by a panel discussion led by members of the Capital Region's health care community. Panelists are:

Donna Frescatore, executive director of NY State of Health, the ACA marketplace, called an exchange

Mark Eagan, president and CEO Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce
David Shippee, president and CEO, Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Services

Sarah Schoof, director of medical services, Capital City Rescue Mission

There is no charge to attend the two-hour forum inside the Hart Theatre, Center for the Performing Arts. Pre-registration is required. For details, visit CDPHP lecture series.

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