



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**STATEMENT BY HANYS' PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON
GOVERNOR PATERSON'S NOVEMBER BUDGET PROPOSAL**

“We should not act until we know all the facts and the true magnitude of the problem.”

“We understand the Governor is attempting to act responsibly in the face of an economic crisis. Nevertheless, we believe calling for another round of mid-year budget cuts just one month before unveiling yet another round of cuts is the wrong approach that leaves far too much at risk.

“Let’s remember that health care services have already been cut twice this year, in April and August, by a total of nearly \$1 billion.

“Frankly, we really don’t know the whole fiscal picture at this point. The Division of Budget projections of deficits in nearly every year prior have been significantly overestimated.

“In addition, the federal government is likely to provide a significant increase in Medicaid funding through a stimulus package that the Governor and our state’s Congressional Delegation continue to seek in Washington.

“There may be \$2 billion or more in Medicaid funding included in that stimulus package that would offset health care cuts the Governor is proposing or plans to propose in December. We believe we must have a better understanding of the likelihood of that potential revenue before we start swinging the ax.

“Certainly, there is a significant deficit and adjustments will have to be made. However, we should not act until we know all the facts and the true magnitude of the problem. If we act now and cut too much, that means communities throughout the state will lose essential health care services and workers will lose jobs for no good reason.

“What we are saying to the Governor and the Legislature is this: Let’s not act twice when we don’t know all the facts. Let’s act once when we do.”

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