



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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NEW WEB SITE GIVES PUBLIC A POWERFUL VOICE IN THE STATE BUDGET PROCESS

www.helpyourhospital.org

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANY) has launched a new Web site designed to give New Yorkers a powerful voice in the state’s health care budget-making process. Nearly every health care provider in New York State would lose critical funding under Governor Paterson’s 2009-2010 Executive Budget proposal that, in total, seeks to eliminate more than \$2.5 billion in health care funding, more than \$1 billion in hospital cuts alone.

The Web site—**www.helpyourhospital.org**—features a ZIP Code search engine that provides visitors with a summary of how much funding their local hospital(s) would lose under the Governor’s plan, and the potential impact these losses would have on health care services and jobs in their communities. The site also offers a tool that makes it easy to send a letter to members of the State Legislature, giving visitors one-stop access to the information and advocacy tools they need to protect their local health care services and jobs. Members of the public can also sign up for a free subscription to regular “e-updates” on the state health care budget at **helpyourhospital.org**.

The site also features an online petition that visitors can sign to lend their support to ensuring that any Medicaid dollars included in an anticipated federal economic stimulus package are used for Medicaid health care services only.

“HANY created **helpyourhospital.org** to help give people in communities across the state a voice in determining how the state budget will affect health care services and jobs in their hometowns and neighborhoods,” said HANY’s President Daniel Sisto. “But just as important as knowing that your access to local health care services is threatened is the ability to quickly and easily do something about it. That’s why the Web site gives people a simple way to tell lawmakers to preserve funding for their local hospitals, protecting critical local services and jobs.”

HANY, the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, represents more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.