



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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HANYS to Legislature: Budget's Impact on Hospitals Still Unknown

Statement by HANYS' President Daniel Sisto

HANYS' President Daniel Sisto will present testimony today before State Legislative committees on the Governor's proposed 2008-2009 budget. His testimony is available at www.hanys.org.

ALBANY, N.Y. — “As we stated when the Governor first released his Executive Budget proposal last month, health care providers support the Administration's laudable health care reform goals, including expanding coverage for uninsured children, modernizing reimbursement, investing in primary care, and addressing physician shortages that exist in many communities throughout the state, among others.

“Additionally, we expressed our opposition to a number of funding cuts contained in the proposal for services such as inpatient care, Graduate Medical Education, drug and alcohol treatment services, and nursing homes and home health care.

“We also indicated our concern that the impacts of the numerous structural changes the proposal seeks to make to the health care system were largely unknown. That concern has only grown in recent days.

“Now, more than two weeks after the budget was submitted, the impact of the Governor's plan on every hospital in the state remains unknown, and the data necessary to fully understand these impacts has not yet been provided by the Administration.

“The best intentions not responsibly pursued can yield disastrous results, so it is imperative that we gain a full understanding of how this plan will affect hospital patient care before any part of it is approved. We are therefore asking the Legislature to proceed with great caution to ensure that the steps we take toward our shared goal of reform do not unintentionally lead our health care system over a cliff.

“In the meantime, we are hopeful the Administration will soon provide the data necessary to measure these impacts. Very little can be accomplished responsibly without that information.”

The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) is the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, representing more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.