



Healthcare Association
of New York State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEW POLL: VAST MAJORITY OF NEW YORKERS OPPOSE CUTS TO
MEDICAID AND DOCTOR TRAINING; STRONGLY SUPPORT COVERAGE
OF THE UNINSURED AND NEW FUNDS TO TRAIN NURSES**

**By 3 to 1 Margin, New Yorkers Would Not Support Education
Increases if it Meant Cuts to Hospitals**

Siena Research Institute Poll Finds Wide Consensus in All Regions

ALBANY, N.Y. — A majority of New Yorkers from every region of the state oppose state budget cuts to Medicaid and doctor training, and overwhelmingly support state funding for nursing education, a HANY-commissioned Siena Research Institute poll found. By a more than a 3-to-1 margin, New Yorkers would not support increasing funding for education if it meant cutting funding for hospitals. The poll also found that more than 80 percent of New Yorkers support reinvesting health insurance profits into health care services.

“While New Yorkers may disagree on many things, they speak with nearly one voice when it comes to opposing cuts to Medicaid and training new doctors,” HANY President Daniel Sisto said. “There’s also tremendous consensus across the state that we need to provide more funding to train nurses, and that excess health insurance revenues should be reinvested into providing health care services.

“It’s clear that New Yorkers want the state to focus on basic health care priorities: providing health care coverage for low-income families and making the investments we need to ensure an adequate supply of doctors and nurses, both of which are currently in short supply.”

The poll found that 73 percent of New Yorkers oppose budget policies that cut Medicaid funding, 29 percent strongly. Only 20 percent support Medicaid cuts. Opposition to Medicaid cuts exceeds 70 percent in every region of the state.

By a 74-to-20 percent margin, New Yorkers oppose cutting funding for doctor training, including 23 percent who strongly oppose such cuts. At least two-thirds of voters in every region oppose those cuts.

Even more compelling, 89 percent of New Yorkers support investing more funding in nursing education, including 38 percent who strongly support it.

“New Yorkers are truly feeling the impact of the ongoing nursing shortage, and they want the government to provide a rational solution, which is to make the investments necessary to ensure New York has more nurses in the future,” Mr. Sisto said.

New Yorkers also agreed by more than a 3-to-1 margin (63-to-20 percent) that they would not support education spending increases if it meant hospital funding had to be cut.

“It’s clear that New Yorkers strongly believe that effective and well funded education and health care systems are equally critical,” Mr. Sisto said. “We’re hopeful that these priorities are reflected in the Governor’s forthcoming Executive Budget proposal.”

The poll also found, by an 81-to-14 percent margin, New Yorkers support requiring health insurance companies to reinvest profits into the health care system. A plurality of New Yorkers, 43 percent, said health insurance company profits should be used to subsidize health care for the uninsured, 14 percent favored making improvements to health care facilities, 29 percent said use the funds to improve patient care and 5 percent said use it to prepare for emergencies.

The poll was conducted by Siena Research Institute between December 26 and January 4. The results are based on a statewide sample of 620 registered New York State voters. The margin of error is \pm 3.9%.

(Note: statewide and regional results are attached)

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.

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Results from HANYS-commissioned Siena Research Poll Measuring New Yorkers' Health Care Priorities

The majority of Medicaid spending provides health care for children, disabled, and elderly New Yorkers. Would you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose state budget policies that cut funding for Medicaid?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Strongly support	6.0	7.8	4.0	3.8	6.8	6.2	6.7
Support	13.5	10.8	17.6	12.8	8.3	13.5	14.1
Oppose	44.5	39.0	46.6	45.9	51.9	51.7	50.3
Strongly oppose	28.5	35.1	23.9	27.8	25.6	24.2	22.1
Don't know/No opinion	7.4	7.4	8.0	9.8	7.5	4.5	6.7

Would you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose state budget policies that cut funding for training new doctors?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Strongly support	5.3	7.8	4.0	3.8	3.0	2.2	6.0
Support	14.8	14.3	15.3	18.8	10.5	15.2	18.1
Oppose	50.5	48.5	52.8	42.1	51.9	53.4	50.3
Strongly oppose	23.2	26.0	21.6	25.6	29.3	20.8	18.1
Don't know/No opinion	6.1	3.5	6.3	9.8	5.3	8.4	7.4

Many potential students cannot get into New York's nursing schools due to a shortage of nursing faculty. Would you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose New York State investing more money in nursing education?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Strongly support	38.4	38.5	32.4	33.1	42.1	43.3	35.6
Support	50.3	51.9	52.3	54.1	48.1	40.4	55.0
Oppose	6.5	4.3	10.2	6.0	6.0	9.0	5.4
Strongly oppose	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.3
Don't know/No opinion	3.7	3.9	3.4	5.3	2.3	5.6	2.7

(continued)

Would you support an increase in the state budget for education if it meant cutting funding for hospitals?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Yes	20.3	23.4	19.9	18.8	21.8	19.7	20.8
No	62.9	58.0	67.6	61.7	61.7	66.9	62.4
Don't know/No opinion	16.8	18.6	12.5	19.5	16.5	13.5	16.8

Do you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose the state spending more money on Medicaid so that more rural and inner city New Yorkers can get primary care health services from a doctor rather than from a hospital emergency room?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Strongly support	30.6	32.9	30.7	25.6	32.3	26.4	26.2
Support	49.7	49.8	46.6	55.6	45.1	53.4	55.0
Oppose	11.5	10.4	10.2	8.3	13.5	12.4	10.1
Strongly oppose	2.6	2.2	6.3	1.5	0.8	2.2	4.7
Don't know/No opinion	5.6	4.8	6.3	9.0	8.3	5.6	4.0

New York health insurance companies have posted profits of more than \$4.2 billion over the last five years. Which view is closer to yours: health insurance companies should be required to reinvest some of these profits into New York's health system, or health insurance companies are private companies and they should be allowed to do whatever they want with their profits.

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Reinvest profits	80.8	79.7	83.5	86.5	88.7	80.3	73.2
Do whatever they want	14.4	16.5	11.9	8.3	7.5	14.0	23.5
Don't know/No opinion	4.8	3.9	4.5	5.3	3.8	5.6	3.4

If health insurance companies were required to reinvest a portion of their profits into health care, which ONE of the following choices would you most like to see that money used for?

	STATEWIDE	NYC	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	LONG ISLAND	HUDSON VALLEY
Subsidizing health care for the uninsured	43.4	44.6	44.9	50.4	45.9	37.6	40.9
Making improvements to health care facilities throughout the state	14.5	13.4	13.6	14.3	12.8	18.0	18.8
Improving the quality of patient care	29.4	27.3	26.7	30.8	30.8	31.5	25.5
Preparing for public health emergencies	5.2	5.6	6.8	1.5	2.3	6.2	6.0
Don't know/No opinion	7.6	9.1	8.0	3.0	8.3	6.7	8.7