



Healthcare Association  
of New York State

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## **STATEMENT BY HANYS PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON NEW YORK STATE'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

“As major employers and purchasers of goods and services in virtually every community in the state, hospitals and long-term care providers are already painfully aware of the high costs and fiscal challenges created by the current poor economy. Even in the best of economic climates, health care facilities in New York have been forced continually to do more with less, and in many instances to reduce services or close down altogether.

“The fragile nature of the state’s economy now parallels the longstanding fragile nature of the state’s health care system.

“Health care providers certainly understand that the state must act to address projected shortfalls, and we pledge as always to work with the Governor and the State Legislature to find solutions that do not endanger or diminish patient care.

“However, given the challenges facing everyday New Yorkers—with gasoline, home heating fuel, electricity, and basic food item costs at record highs—the very last thing we should do is to increase costs for health care or limit access to health services for those most in need.

“Medicaid is our most critical safety net, providing essential health care services to more than three million New Yorkers, mostly children, the aged, and disabled. With job cuts taking place or looming all across the state, even more families will face losing not just their income but their health insurance, too.

“It is precisely at times like this that our health care safety net must be fully supported so that the families who rely on it do not fall through it.”

*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.*