



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**STATEMENT BY HANYS' PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON
GOVERNOR PATERSON'S PROPOSED HEALTH CARE CUTS**

ALBANY, N.Y. — “The challenge before us is to balance the call for austerity with the critical and growing human needs of New York families who are losing their jobs and homes as a result of the current economic downturn.

“As the economy worsens, those families who fall through the cracks will need the Medicaid program to ensure their continued access to health care. These are working families who for years have been paying taxes and supporting the Medicaid program for others. Now, when they need the program most, we must redouble our commitment to ensuring that they will be able to access the care they need.

“However, in just a few short weeks we have gone from suggestions of shared sacrifice to making hospitals and nursing homes into sacrificial lambs. And, on top of massive cuts to health services, the Administration has gone from a discussion about a millionaire’s tax to a \$23 million tax on sick hospital patients.

“Bear in mind that the Governor’s proposal represents only the state share of Medicaid. The full impact (state and federal share combined) to hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies would be more than \$1 billion.”

“Moreover, this plan in no way can be considered a balance of shared sacrifice when entire sectors are exempted from it.

“We are committed as always to working with the Governor and the Legislature to responsibly respond to this situation, but we all must be careful not to pull the rug out from under the families who are now counting on us. And we must agree that if there is to be sacrifice, that it be equitably shared by all sectors.”

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.