



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WILLIAM VAN SLYKE
(518) 431-7770
CELL: (518) 527-3547

**STATEMENT BY HANYS' PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON
THE MID-YEAR STATE BUDGET AGREEMENT**

ALBANY, N.Y. — “The hospitals and long-term care providers of this state are well accustomed to reacting to crises. Running a health care facility by definition means you are constantly containing and mitigating crises to ensure the best care possible for your patients and residents.

“Every hour of every day, our members are asked to do more with less, and today is no different. This pattern, however, is not sustainable. A serious discussion must ensue concerning how we redesign the health care system to a more sustainable and affordable model.

“Considering the difficult choices that they faced, we are thankful to Majority Leader Skelos, Speaker Silver, the Governor and their respective staff for working with us to mitigate these reductions and their impact on patient care. None of us expected nor wanted to be discussing these issues in mid-August.

“We also heed seriously the Governor’s warnings about further shortfalls projected for the coming fiscal year. However, if these projections prove to be accurate, health care providers will be hard pressed to bear another burden.

“The majority of this state’s hospitals continue to lose money or barely break even, our operating margins are the second lowest in the nation, and our physical infrastructure is among the oldest in the nation.

“We also must remember that the final 2008-2009 state budget, agreed to in April, contained additional significant cuts to health care providers. Today’s agreement naturally will compound those earlier cuts.

“In the last decade alone, 29 hospitals and even more nursing homes have closed across the state. How we respond from this point forward will determine whether even more hospitals and nursing homes are forced to close, depriving their communities of essential health care services.

“We are firm in our resolve to not let that happen.”

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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.