



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**STATEMENT BY HANYS' PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON
GOVERNOR PATERSON'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

ALBANY, N.Y. — “Governor Paterson’s State of the State Address made the right diagnosis of the health care system’s problems, but he has ordered the wrong prescriptions to treat them.

“From a practical standpoint, it is impossible to reconcile the Governor’s stated health care priorities with the health care portion of his 2009-2010 Executive Budget proposal. His budget would eviscerate health care services funding, making all of the health care goals he established even harder to attain than they are today.

“Health care services have already been cut twice this fiscal year by more than \$1 billion. The Governor’s 2009-2010 budget plan would cut health services by another \$5 billion over the next two years.

“How, then, will a funding-starved health system tackle childhood obesity? How will we fund the primary care physicians and services necessary to improve preventive care while at the same time protect core hospital services like emergency room care, birthing centers, surgery, and inpatient care? How will nursing homes and home health care providers continue to serve vulnerable populations?

“How will we have the resources and staff necessary to meet the demands associated with the Governor’s own laudable efforts to provide health insurance to more New Yorkers?

“How will we meet the demand of thousands of new Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsured individuals who are the victims of the economic meltdown?

“All these questions remain unresolved, and no speech, however well intended and crafted, will provide the answers.

“These are the issues we will take to the Legislature as the new session begins.”

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.