



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**STATEMENT BY HANY PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO
ON THE GOVERNOR'S INTENTIONS FOR FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING
(Responding to Today's 3:30 p.m. Budget Conference Call)**

“Governor Paterson and his fiscal staff have once again made clear that the Administration plans to raid the Medicaid health care funding contained in the federal stimulus package. If the Legislature allows them to do so, they would be doing no less than cashing in health care services for children, the elderly, and disabled in order to avoid raising taxes on the wealthy. They would be balancing the budget on the backs of our neediest citizens.

“When this budget is finalized, every member of the state Senate and Assembly will be asked by their constituents what they did to help the people who were hurt most by the economic crisis; what they did for the people who lost their jobs, their health insurance, and their ability to get medical care for themselves and their children.

“Each Legislator will have to decide how they will answer that question. Will they say they did nothing to stop the Governor's raid on these federal health care dollars? Will they have to admit complicity in abandoning tens of thousands of New Yorkers who are facing the most difficult time in their lives, when they most need their government to provide a safety net?

“Or will they say that they stood up for those hardest hit; that they had the courage to draw a line in the sand and ensure that these health care dollars are used for health care services to help those most in need?

“We're hopeful they will make the right decision because we believe the Legislature is far more in touch with the pain their constituents are feeling, how that pain is growing every day, and how critically important it is for them to do all they can to help those who are suffering.

“Medicaid dollars should be for Medicaid services. The Governor's plan to raid them must be stopped. These federal health care dollars must be used to restore the draconian and disproportionate health care cuts and taxes the Governor has proposed. There's more than enough Medicaid stimulus money to do so.”

The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANY) 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.