



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**GOVERNOR PATERSON MAKES SHOCKING PUBLIC ADMISSION:
STATE BUDGET CUTS COULD BE “LIFE-THREATENING”**

ALBANY, N.Y. — Governor Paterson earlier today made a shocking and troubling admission concerning the potential impact of proposed state budget cuts, telling reporters at a press conference: “We are now right on the verge of cuts and service reductions that I’d describe as life-threatening.”

HANYS’ President Daniel Sisto responded to the Governor’s extraordinarily candid comment, saying: “This statement is an astounding indication in the Governor’s own words that state budget cuts could result in ‘life-threatening’ service reductions.

“The fact is, he’s right, especially as it relates to the hundreds of millions of dollars in vital health services and patient care cuts in his own budget plan. In the last six months alone, more than a dozen hospitals across the state have announced service reductions and more than 5,500 layoffs. In fact, three hospitals (two in Queens and one in Oswego County) have announced complete closures.

“If this budget plan is passed, more health services, more health care jobs, and possibly more hospitals will be lost, putting more New Yorkers in communities throughout the state in grave danger.

“It is therefore imperative as a public safety issue for the Legislature to use the billions of available federal Medicaid stimulus dollars, known as FMAP, to restore these life-threatening patient care cuts and eliminate the proposed health care provider taxes,” Mr. Sisto said.

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.