



Healthcare Association
of New York State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 5, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WILLIAM VAN SLYKE
(518) 431-7770

METRO AREA HOSPITALS TO BLEED ANOTHER \$50 MILLION UNDER MTA TAX PLAN

More Health Care Jobs and Services to Be Lost

Latest Tax Plan Follows Four Consecutive Budget Actions in Just 13 Months That Have Cut and Taxed Health Care Providers by More Than \$2.3 Billion

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Governor and State Legislature are poised to pass a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) payroll tax increase that will cost metropolitan area not-for-profit and public hospitals more than \$50 million, further decimating the ability of health care providers to meet patient needs and maintain adequate staffing levels. In addition, area nursing homes and home health care providers stand to lose tens of millions more under the MTA payroll tax plan.

HANY'S President Daniel Sisto assailed the MTA tax as another attack on hospital and home health care patients and nursing home residents.

"Public transportation is certainly critical, but no more so than health care services," Mr. Sisto asserted. "New York's hospitals, nursing homes, and home health care providers have already experienced far more than our share of cuts and taxes in the past 13 months."

Health care providers in New York were cut by a staggering total of \$2.3 billion in four separate budget actions over the last 13 months—the final 2008-2009 state budget, the mid-year budget agreement last August, the February 2009 Deficit Reduction Act, and the current 2009-2010 state budget.

"Where's the bailout for New Yorkers who need chemotherapy or a warm bed or adequate birthing centers? Why are New York's patients and nursing home residents continually being asked to pay the tab?" Mr. Sisto asked.

"Health care is being used like it's the state's ATM; meanwhile hospitals close, thousands of health care jobs are shed, and cuts are made to essential services all across the state," said Mr. Sisto.

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.