



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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**STATEMENT BY HANY'S PRESIDENT DANIEL SISTO ON THE GOVERNOR'S
HEALTH CARE CUTS IN THE NEWLY PROPOSED EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL**

Governor Continues "BP" Approach to Addressing Fiscal Crisis

ALBANY, N.Y. — "In the midst of severe medical staffing shortages and long waits for needed care, the Governor just issued pink slips for thousands of desperately needed health care workers who care for our patients. In the midst of a still fragile economic recovery, he just eliminated more than \$1 billion of economic activity. In an environment of declining tax revenue, he just eliminated hundreds of millions of dollars of potential local and state tax revenue. In every area of importance, his latest extender plan takes us three steps in exactly the wrong direction.

"We have a revenue shortfall in this state that has created a broader fiscal crisis. From a public policy standpoint, however, Governor Paterson's ongoing reaction to the state's crisis is no different from BP's reaction to the Gulf oil spill. Instead of thinking through a comprehensive plan that will fix the problem the first time, he is simply rolling out one desperate idea after another in hopes that one might actually work. Like his furlough and layoff plans, this extender is just another version of 'top kill.' It's another 'junk shot' and it won't work.

"The \$775 million in cuts to state funding for health care services contained in the Governor's extender will actually grow to more than \$1 billion when the lost federal share of Medicaid is added in. It is a staggering sum.

"By singling out health care services as the only area to face significant cuts, Governor Paterson has made clear that he intends to hold our patients and the entire health care system ransom to coerce the Legislature to do his bidding. It is a new low in the annals of Albany dysfunction. He has engaged in an incredibly reckless game of brinkmanship that puts patient lives at risk in every community across the state.

"These cuts, on top of the \$4.4 billion in cuts and taxes in the six prior budgets (within just the last two years), combined with the billions in reductions pending from the passage of the national health legislation, will create no less than an emergency in health care delivery, and it will be our patients who will bear the ultimate burden of these actions."

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.