



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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HANYS' Statement on Governor Cuomo's Budget Proposal
Extreme \$15 Billion in Cuts Over Two Years—The Largest in State History

Statement by Daniel Sisto, President, HANYS

ALBANY, NY — “Including the commensurate loss of federal matching funds, the Governor’s proposed health care cuts amount to approximately \$15 billion over two years. This is the largest cut to health care services in New York State’s history. Even within the context of our fiscal crisis, the magnitude of these cuts is extreme.

“I am gravely concerned about the expectation that the Governor’s Medicaid Redesign Team can identify alternative reforms to substitute for this level of reduction. The Medicaid Team does not need more health experts. It will require alchemists, not policy wonks or providers, to transform cuts of this magnitude into gold.

“It is also important to view this proposal in the context of past budget actions and pending federal Medicare cuts. No other sector of state spending has been more disproportionately impacted by repeated cuts than health care. In just three years, health care providers have already been cut by a cumulative \$5.3 billion in Medicaid. Our state is also slated for billions more in Medicare payment cuts under the new federal reform law.

“If the proposed additional \$15 billion in Medicaid reductions over the next two years becomes law, we will see a continuation of hospital and nursing closures, adding to the 30 hospitals and more than 50 nursing homes that have already been shuttered in the last decade.

“We are committed to providing the best constructive recommendations for improving our health system through the Medicaid reform process. However, as an outgrowth of health reform and the recession, both New York State and the federal government will continue to expand Medicaid enrollment and therefore drive spending.

“HANYS wants to be explicitly clear that hospitals and other providers in New York State cannot absorb these cuts, provide quality care to our citizens, and transform health care delivery all at the same time.”

HANYS, the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, represents more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.