



Healthcare Association
of New York State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WILLIAM VAN SLYKE
(518) 431-7770 (Office)
(518) 527-3547 (Cell)

Statement by Healthcare Association of New York State President Daniel Sisto on the Recommendations Made by New York's Medicaid Redesign Team

“The recommendations made by the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) are the product of a series of very difficult decisions that balance the need to address New York’s historic budget deficit with the equally critical need to design a more sustainable Medicaid program, upon which the well being of 5 million New Yorkers relies.

“Governor Cuomo’s MRT strategy proved to be a unique and effective method for achieving the sometimes painful compromises necessary to secure approval of these recommendations.

“As a member of the MRT, I voted to support these recommendations. And while no one can be truly pleased with an agreement that reduces Medicaid funding, the reality is that these actions were necessary to protect the Medicaid program from certain collapse.

“However, as Winston Churchill said: ‘This is not the end. . .but the end of the beginning.’ Much more work is needed to comprehensively redesign New York’s health care system, including reforming the state’s regulatory reform structure, and addressing escalating medical malpractice costs, among others.

“I want to commend Governor Cuomo for his leadership and vision in deftly addressing this enormously complex and important issue. I’d also like to commend the MRT leadership, state personnel, and the members of the MRT, who worked together in great candor and alacrity to meet the enormous challenge the Governor presented to us.”

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. No other organization can speak more comprehensively on behalf of the state's entire health care delivery system