



## **MEDIA ALERT**

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Statement by Healthcare Association of New York State President Daniel Sisto

### **On the Federal Debt Ceiling/Deficit Reduction Deal**

ALBANY, N.Y. — “The deal announced to raise the federal government’s debt ceiling and decrease the deficit averts a default crisis in the short-term, but sets up health care providers for the possibility of deep Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement cuts going forward, threatening the sustainability of high quality patient care.

“The level of cuts to hospitals and health systems contained in the federal health care reform law passed last year, the Affordable Care Act, on its own is unsustainable. Yet, providers must make significant investments to restructure care delivery under the new law. This debt ceiling agreement opens the door to piling on more provider cuts.

“Leaders talk about protecting seniors, but fail to mention that any Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement cuts to providers are de facto cuts to patients’ benefits when access to care is restricted and services contract. Hospitals and health systems cannot be viable providers of care under repeated rounds of reimbursement cuts.

“Moreover, this ongoing march to cut government reimbursement to providers is a drag on the economy and threatens the role health care has been playing to stabilize the economy and create jobs during this critical time. These benefits will be lost if hospitals are forced to lay off staff and eliminate services to survive.

“It is time for government to pay fairly for the care provided, or rethink the magnitude of its promises to our seniors.”

*[The Healthcare Association of New York State](#) (HANY) is the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, representing 500 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.*