



MEDIA ALERT

Contact: William Van Slyke
Vice President, Communications
Office: (518) 431-7770

Mobile: (518) 527-3547
wwanslyk@hanys.org

Statement by Healthcare Association of New York State President Daniel Sisto

House “Doc Fix” Legislation Would Erode Access to Lifesaving Health Care Services

ALBANY, N.Y. — “House Republican leaders today issued a ‘doc fix’ plan that, if approved, would effectively delay one health care crisis by causing another. Their plan, contained in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011, would delay for two years a devastating 28% Medicare physician fee reduction, but pay for part of it by imposing billions in new cuts to hospitals.

“Chronic government underfunding has already generated health service erosion in communities across the state and nation. This plan will only quicken the pace of service losses already underway. One truly fails to see the logic of preventing massive cuts to doctors by imposing massive cuts to hospitals. The most lasting and profound impact of this plan would be longer waits and greater traveling distances for Americans who need care.

“Physicians and hospitals alike are underfunded by Medicare, losing money on virtually every service provided. Artificially low reimbursements are even worse under the Medicaid system, where hospitals in New York see just 75 cents for every dollar of care they provide.

“The Affordable Care Act cut New York health providers by \$15 billion, sequestration will add another \$2.4 billion in cuts in New York, on top of another \$830 million in Medicare rate reductions, resulting in a staggering total of more than \$18 billion in Medicare cuts in New York alone. These cuts are destabilizing our health delivery system.

“The impending physician payment reduction must be rectified, but it cannot be done so at the cost of hospitals. Both are essential elements of our health system that require fair reimbursement to ensure a sustainable health care delivery system.

“The members of New York’s Congressional delegation must recognize the reckless folly of this proposal and move swiftly to defeat it.”

The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYYS) 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.

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Healthcare Association of New York State, 1 Empire Dr, Rensselaer, NY 12144 United States