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June 7, 2022

Dear New York Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Healthcare Association of New York State and our statewide membership, thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting hospitals and health systems. I write today to ask you to prevent deepening Medicare sequestration cuts from taking full effect.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been unrelenting and our hospitals and health systems are still absorbing unprecedented economic impacts. Moreover, mounting pressures on our healthcare infrastructure and workforce have fundamentally changed the cost structure for our hospitals and health systems, putting their fiscal stability in jeopardy.

Reimbursement for Medicare services has not kept pace with the increased costs for supplies and workforce. This year's Medicare marketbasket update factor does not reflect the rapidly increasing costs hospitals and health systems are experiencing. Layering on sequestration cuts essentially wipes out the already inadequate marketbasket update and is simply bad policy.

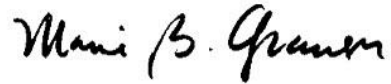
Last year, New York's hospitals collectively recorded the lowest negative operating margin in 20 years, -1.4%. But it could have been worse. Thanks to your unified efforts, New York's hospitals avoided suffering an unfathomable statewide average operating margin of worse than -10%. HANYYS is grateful to the entire New York congressional delegation for standing together to assist healthcare providers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are particularly grateful for your support for relief from Medicare sequestration cuts during the public health emergency. However, despite still being in a public health emergency, on April 1, a 1% cut to all Medicare reimbursement for our providers went into effect. **If Congress fails to act before July 1, that cut will increase to 2%, totaling about \$200 million in direct Medicare payment cuts to New York's hospitals and health systems in the next year and nearly \$3 billion over ten years.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of a robust, reliable healthcare system prepared to respond to any emergency. Now is not the time to allow hospital and health system reimbursement to be cut. HANYYS urges Congress to pass legislation to halt Medicare sequestration cuts before the full 2% reduction takes effect July 1.

Thank you for your continued commitment and partnership as we work to overcome COVID-19 and ensure our hospitals and health systems can continue to serve our communities beyond the pandemic. If you have questions, please contact me at bgrause@hanys.org or 518.431.7765.

Sincerely,



Marie B. Grause, RN, JD
President