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July 10, 2019

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Engel:

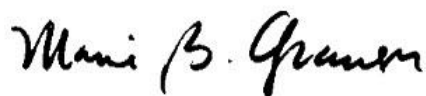
On behalf of New York's hospitals and health systems statewide, thank you for your longstanding leadership to protect Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments and your recent efforts to address impending reductions to the program. Medicaid DSH is vital to helping hospitals and health systems preserve access to care for the nation's most vulnerable populations. Action is needed now to avert dramatic Medicaid DSH reductions that threaten access to care in communities across New York state and the nation.

Unless Congress takes action, starting Oct. 1, Medicaid DSH payments to New York's hospitals will be cut by more than \$7 billion through 2025. In just the first two years, New York would see a nearly 70% reduction in its federal Medicaid DSH support.

As you know, New York's not-for-profit hospitals and health systems rely on this crucial funding to cover a portion of the costs they incur providing necessary healthcare services to low-income, underinsured and uninsured people in their communities. Moreover, New York hospitals operate on thin to negative margins and have the third lowest operating margin on average of any state in the nation. Reductions to Medicaid DSH of the magnitude set to be implemented on Oct. 1 are simply not sustainable and threaten the financial viability of hospitals and health systems across the state. Future changes to Medicaid DSH or other Medicaid funding would have the same effect.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting hospitals and the patients and communities they serve.

Sincerely,



Marie B. Grause, RN, JD
President