



*Representing the shared advocacy interests of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)*

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For Immediate Release

**SUBURBAN HOSPITALS REITERATE CALL FOR EXCLUSION FROM MTA TAX**  
*Urge Legislature to Expand Payroll Tax Exemption to All Non-Profit Institutions*

HAUPPAUGE — Kevin Dahill, President and CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, which represents 54 hospitals in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, issued the following statement in response to the announcement by Governor Cuomo and legislative leaders of a deal to repeal the MTA payroll tax for some small businesses, private and parochial schools.

“Yesterday’s announcement by Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Skelos and Speaker Silver to repeal the MTA payroll tax for many employers is a prudent action that will better enable job creation and ease the burden on educational institutions. We applaud the leadership of Senators Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley), Jack Martins (R-Mineola), John Bonacic (R-Mt. Hope) and Stephen Saland (R-Poughkeepsie), as well as Assemblyman George Latimer (D-Rye) and many other legislators in the suburban regions who pushed this issue to the forefront, and recognize that this provision has already been agreed upon in the context of a larger legislative package.

However, we urge the Legislature to extend this important tax relief to not-for-profit hospitals and health providers, which are the largest employers in the impacted communities. Within the region covered by the tax, not-for-profit hospitals are the single largest providers of private sector jobs, supporting 150,000 jobs and \$23 billion in economic activity, while being subject to more than \$4.5 billion in state Medicaid cuts and \$13 billion in federal Medicare cuts in the last three years alone. Hospitals have great potential for job creation, but they are hindered by the uncertainties of state and federal reimbursements going forward. The MTA payroll tax, which costs suburban hospitals approximately \$20 million per year, adds to this burden.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State has endorsed S. 5596/A. 8193, legislation introduced by Senators Zeldin and Martin and Assemblyman Latimer, which would phase out the MTA tax for all employers in the suburban regions by 2014. We strongly urge consideration of this more comprehensive proposal when the legislative session resumes in January.

Employers in New York desperately need tax relief, and none more so than the health care institutions that protect the health and well being of our communities and provide more jobs than any other sector. It therefore stands to reason that the repeal of an onerous tax like the MTA tax should be expanded to include not-for-profit health care providers.”

*The Suburban Hospital Alliance was formed in 2006 by the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association and Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council to ensure the specific concerns of suburban hospitals were heard by lawmakers in Albany and Washington. Suburban Alliance hospitals are a mix of academic medical centers, specialty hospitals, and community hospitals in the nine counties outside of New York City.*

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