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Gov. Cuomo Budget Proposal Calls for Staggering Cuts to Health Care Plan Would Cut \$15 Billion over Two-Year Period

Statement by Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association

“The magnitude of these cuts is unprecedented in this state: \$15 billion over two years, including the federal Medicaid matching funds that will be lost. It is truly disheartening that the Governor’s budget would propose such an extreme level of reduction, especially since the health care sector has borne a disproportionately large share of the sacrifice needed to correct the state’s fiscal problems these past few years.

The Medicaid Redesign Team is charged with finding meaningful reforms that will ensure the program’s stability in the long run. However, the targeted savings proposed by the governor -- \$2.85 billion in state funds in the next fiscal year alone -- makes it nearly impossible to achieve that serious reform. The task becomes ever more improbable given that the recommendations from this team are due in just 25 days.

In the end, those who will suffer the most from such massive funding reductions are the patients – our friends, neighbors, and family members – who will see hospital-based programs and services eliminated, emergency room wait times grow much longer, and in some cases, the neighborhood hospital close its doors to the community forever. The suburban communities served by the hospitals from the Long Island region and the Hudson Valley region deserve access to the highest quality care.”

The Suburban Hospital Alliance is the advocacy arm of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association, which represents the seven-county region north of New York City, and the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, which represents Long Island hospitals.