



January 20, 2023
Hon. Kathy C. Hochul, Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As you are preparing to release your proposed Executive budget, we are writing to you to discuss the inclusion of additional funding for the support of nursing homes participating in the Medicaid program. In recent discussions with advocates, we have heard of several proposals to accomplish this goal including direct Medicaid rate increases and rate rebasing. We also urge the administration to ensure that the proposed budget does not include any new cuts to the nursing home industry.

New York State has underinvested in Medicaid for years and must increase its spending to match the increasing need. The budget you advanced last year was the first significant investment in healthcare in the last decade, but it is only the first step in addressing a healthcare system that is in serious peril. Despite workforce shortages and increased costs, the nursing home industry was at the forefront of the COVID-19 response and continued to provide care to its residents during the pandemic.

Financial pressures on the nursing home industry have led to facility closures, taking essential beds offline, and creating hospital discharge issues. Nursing homes are facing serious financial challenges caused by empty beds that cannot be brought on line due to staffing shortages. As a direct result, individuals ready to transfer from a hospital to a nursing home sometimes have their discharge delayed, which can then lead to potentially dangerous limitations on hospital capacity and the potential diversion of patients.

We are concerned that without investment and long-term agreement to address the viability and access to high-quality nursing homes by the State of New York, the trend of sales and closures will continue. We urge your administration to ensure that New York's nursing homes are fully supported so that they can continue to provide the highest level of quality care to their residents.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to collaborate with the healthcare community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gustavo Rivera'.

Gustavo Rivera
33rd District
New York State Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cordell Cleare'.

Cordell Cleare
30th District
New York State Senate

With support from the listed members of the New York State Senate:

Hon. Rachel May
New York State Senator, 48th Senate District

Hon. Daniel G. Stec
New York State Senator, 45th Senate District

Hon. Michelle Hinchey
New York State Senator, 41st Senate District

Hon. Timothy Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd Senate District

Hon. Anthony H. Palumbo
New York State Senator, 1st Senate District

Hon. John W. Mannion
New York State Senator, 50th Senate District

Hon. Alexis Weik
New York State Senator, 8th Senate District

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal
New York State Senator, 47th Senate District

Hon. Lea Webb
New York State Senator, 52nd Senate District

Hon. Neil D. Breslin
New York State Senator, 46th Senate District

Hon. Michael Gianaris
New York State Senator, 12th Senate District

Hon. Roxanne Persaud
New York State Senator, 19th Senate District

Hon. Kristen Gonzalez
New York State Senator, 59th Senate District

Hon. Jacob Ashby
New York State Senator, 43rd Senate District

Hon. John Liu
New York State Senator, 16th Senate District

Hon. Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator, 56th Senate District

Hon. George M. Borrello
New York State Senator, 57th Senate District

Hon. Robert Jackson
New York State Senator, 31st Senate District

Hon. Simcha Felder
New York State Senator, 22nd Senate District

Hon. Nathalia Fernandez
New York State Senator, 34th Senate District

CC: Angela Profetta, Executive Chamber
Amir Bassiri, New York State Medicaid Director
Michael Ogborn, New York State DOH CFO
Jillian Kirby, Division of Budget
Adam Herbst, Department of Health