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Statement on 2024 – 2025 State Budget Agreement

Wendy Darwell, President/CEO Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State

Hauppauge, NY (January 17, 2024): The Executive Budget acknowledges the worsening financial condition of New York’s hospitals but offers funding cuts, not solutions.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance joins its association colleagues in the call on state government leaders to close the gap between Medicaid rates and the cost of providing that care. The state must make a state multi-year investment so that the essential safety that provides coverage to nearly 40 percent of New Yorkers actually reimburses providers what it costs to treat patients.

Instead, Governor Hochul proposed no adjustment to keep with inflation and rising workforce costs, a cut to a component of the Medicaid hospital rate, and reduced support for struggling safety net institutions and capital projects. Additional provisions that expand Medicaid benefits and increase enrollment in Medicaid and the Essential Plan are laudable but, so long as the state does not pay the full cost of caring for Medicaid patients, these policies further burden stressed providers.

Every day, hospital leaders must figure out how to afford rising labor rates, temporary staffing costs, outrageous drug prices, and manage other inflationary pressures while meeting the needs of their communities. At minimum, Medicaid rates must keep up or patient access is at risk.

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About the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State advocates on behalf of hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions. It engages key lawmakers and regulatory decision-makers in Albany and Washington to ensure reasonable and rational health care policy prevails.

About the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC)



The [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NSHC serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals on Long Island.

About the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)





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The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NorMet serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals in the Hudson Valley.

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