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- **St. Catherine of Siena
Medical Center**
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- **St. Charles Hospital**
Port Jefferson
- **St. Francis Hospital**
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- **St. Joseph Hospital**
Bethpage
- **Mercy Medical Center**
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East End Health Alliance

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Riverhead
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Southampton

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Long Beach

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- **Winthrop-University
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**Nassau-Suffolk
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Health Care Bears Brunt of Budget Burden

Today (June 7, 2010) the state legislature could vote on an emergency spending bill presented by Governor Paterson that will severely hamper the delivery of hospital and health care services on Long Island. The governor's 10th emergency spending bill seeks \$775 million in cuts to health care statewide. In the absence of a 2010 - 2011 state budget, these emergency spending bills have kept the state operating on a weekly basis. The current emergency bill expires June 9.

Legislators have little time to consider the bill and cannot amend an emergency spending bill, only vote yes or no.

"Most troubling is the \$69.2 billion that the governor wants to cut from indigent care funding," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, the association that represents

Long Island's hospitals. "In this economy, we have seen an unprecedented rise in the numbers of uninsured and those qualifying for Medicaid. These health care cuts will only make the state's economic situation worse."

Other vulnerable areas include Graduate Medical Education, Doctors Across New York program, and elimination of the Medicaid trend factor update for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Hospital Council is urging state representatives to reject the governor's extender bill.

"Every Long Islander will be hurt by this action," said Dahill. "Hospital jobs will be lost, our local economy will suffer, and most importantly, hospital programs and services will be curtailed and eliminated in some cases."

Medicaid Provision in Jobs Bill Needs Preserving

Health care services, job creation, economic growth at risk

Long Island's hospital leaders are urging the Senate to include an extension of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) provision in the jobs and fiscal relief bill they will take up upon their return to Washington the week of June 7. FMAP is the percentage of assistance that states receive to run their Medicaid programs. Without an extension of this funding into 2011, states will be forced to develop fiscal year 2010 - 2011 budgets with huge holes, causing cuts in jobs and health care services beginning this July. This is especially true for New York State, which already is wrestling with a \$9.5 billion budget gap for next year. That state budget as of today remains unsolved.

The stimulus bill, signed into law early 2009, provides for a temporary increase in FMAP assistance for 27 months, ending December 31, 2010. This additional funding helped states cope with the record increase in Medicaid enrollments brought about by the poor economy. The funding also helped states avert more severe cuts to Medicaid programs and services. However, the situation is particularly tenuous in New York State, as the governor's proposed budget for next year (present-

ed January 2010) calls for millions in Medicaid cuts and taxes. Long Island hospitals would absorb nearly \$50 million of these cuts and taxes.

In March, the Senate passed a jobs and fiscal relief bill with a six-month extension and enhanced federal Medicaid match. In late May, the House passed its version of the bill, but dropped the FMAP extension and funding enhancement.

Economists agree that the initial round of FMAP assistance to states preserved jobs and economic growth. According to Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com, every dollar of federal Medicaid relief results in \$1.41 in increased economic activity.

"Every Long Islander needs to contact their U.S. Senators and let them know that our region cannot sustain any more reductions in health care services, hikes in taxes, or loss of jobs," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), the association that represents Long Island's hospitals. "Eliminating the FMAP provision will undermine the economic progress, however slight it is at this point, that we have achieved."

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Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 202-224-4451