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*The collective voice of Long Island's
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representatives Bishop/McCarthy Meet with LI Hospital Leaders

Economic stimulus bill and state Medicaid's fate dominate discussion

(Hauppauge, NY . . . February 2, 2009) U.S. Representatives Tim Bishop and Carolyn McCarthy listened to hospital administrators' concerns today about threatened state Medicaid cuts their facilities face, as well as their hopes for other relief in the federal stimulus package now making its way through the Senate. These include immediate access to capital, money for information technology, and legislative reform of pension funding requirements now prohibitive in light of the economic downturn. The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) hosted the Issues Briefing. NSHC is the organization that represents Long Island's hospitals.

"Affordable, quality health care is to key to growth in the economy and the economic security of our families," Congressman Bishop said. "That is why I am working with Long Island's health care leaders to make sure that in addition to investing in infrastructure, we are also taking care of our hospitals."

"This is the time that money has to go in," Congresswoman McCarthy said. "Health care and infrastructure are two main parts of the House stimulus bill. In health care we have to make sure no one is laid off and Medicaid patients are taken care of. If someone gets sick they go to a hospital and the hospital has to get paid."

"Economic stimulus money will translate into local jobs, at least in the health care sector, if the Governor and legislature direct that money toward
(More . . . see photo on page 2)

Issues Briefing/NSHC

closing the Medicaid budget hole,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the NSHC. “Hospitals provide 82,000 jobs and fuel local economies with \$13 billion in residual spending.”

Dahill warns that the \$64 million in Medicaid reimbursement cuts to this region will have the adverse effect of stagnating the local economy through staff reductions and program closures.

Long Islanders can log onto the website helpyourhospital.org and enter their zip code to get a dollar and cents view of what these cuts mean to their local hospitals and communities.



From left: U.S. Representatives Timothy Bishop, Carolyn McCarthy, and NSHC President/CEO Kevin Dahill meet with Long Island hospital leaders to discuss elements of the federal economic stimulus bill, now making its way through the Senate.

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