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

Hospitals Support Patient-Centered Legislation

Cong. Israel seeks provider reimbursement for cancer treatment education

(Hauppauge, NY . . . March 12, 2008) Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council president/CEO Kevin Dahill joined Congressman Steve Israel on Monday, March 10, 2008 at Huntington Hospital, as the Congressman announced his Assuring and Improving Cancer Treatment Education and Cancer Symptom Management Act. This proposed legislation would require Medicare to reimburse providers for cancer education.

"The hospital community is wholeheartedly behind this legislation, and we will work with Congress to see that it's enacted," said Dahill, whose organization represents the 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. "This patient-centered legislation comes at a time when our President has proposed extensive Medicare cuts."

Dahill was referring to President Bush's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget that calls for \$114 million in Medicare cuts to Long Island hospitals next year, swelling to \$1.2 billion in cuts by 2013. Israel joined Dahill in opposition to these cuts. Hospital administrators across Long Island agree that this executive budget is by far the most radical proposal offered by any administration and would undermine all patient care.

"If we can educate patients and require payment for that education, we can help patients deal with the many side effects of cancer treatment. This legislation ends up paying for itself in reduced hospital admissions and reduced costs," said Congressman Israel.

"Today's health care system is complex and fragmented. The most difficult issue is loss of control. Our belief is that this legislation could enable patients to have information about what is happening to them and return to them some control," said Karen Stanley, past president of the Oncology Nursing Society.

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Israel Press Conference 2. . .2. . .2



From left: Kevin Lawlor, president/CEO of Huntington Hospital; Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council; Karen Stanley, past president of the Oncology Nurse Society; Congressman Steve Israel; cancer survivor Michelle Snyder.

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