



**TOP TEN REASONS WHY THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD  
“PUT PATIENTS FIRST” BY  
REJECTING THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED HEALTH CARE CUTS**

**REASON #1: Gov. Spitzer says he wants to shift funding from “institutions” to patients, but his budget puts only \$10.6 million toward covering 400,000 uninsured children while slashing \$1.3 billion in health care programs.**

Governor Spitzer proposes \$1.3 billion in State savings through cuts to health care programs, including Medicaid and other programs for elderly and disabled New Yorkers. His proposals total \$1 billion in cuts to New York’s fragile safety net—hospitals, nursing homes, and home care. One of the reasons the Governor cites for cutting health care is to re-invest the funding into health care programs. He has stated that he wants to shift funding from “institutions” to patients.

The fact is, the Governor’s \$1.3 billion in cuts will starve our financially strapped hospitals and nursing homes and put patients at risk. What’s more, despite his claim, very little of this money is actually re-invested in patient care.

For instance, the Governor says he wants to provide health insurance for New York’s 400,000 uninsured children, a proposal New York’s caregivers strongly support. However, while proposing draconian health care cuts of \$1.3 billion, he *spends* only \$10.6 million—*less than one percent of the amount cut*—to expand coverage for New York’s uninsured children.

Even when you add up all of the Governors proposed new “investments” in health care, the entire new spending adds up to only \$132.7 million. The bottom line: the Governor wants to cut *10 times* the amount from health care programs than he proposes to spend on so-called “reforms.” Where does the rest of the money go? Where are the investments in health care? Is this putting patients first?

New York’s health care community strongly supports real reform of the health care system. We have submitted a detailed proposal to the Governor and the State Legislature entitled *Shared Sacrifice: A Prescription for Comprehensive Health Care Reform in New York State*. Unlike the Governor’s proposals, ours would truly reform the Medicaid program, provide health insurance coverage for all New Yorkers, and take on the sectors of the health care system that are making huge profits at the expense of New York’s health care, including the HMOs and drug companies. The proposal can be found at [www.stopthecuts.org](http://www.stopthecuts.org).

Know the facts about the Governor’s budget. Cuts are not reform. Cuts put patients at risk. **PUT PATIENTS FIRST: STOP THE CUTS!**