



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

REASON #3: President Bush’s budget cuts \$1.2 billion from New York’s hospitals, nursing homes, and home care agencies. Rather than pursuing another \$1 billion in State cuts, Governor Spitzer should join with the New York Congressional delegation and protect New Yorkers from Bush’s budget.

President Bush’s budget contains \$1.2 billion in cuts to New York’s safety net of hospitals, nursing homes, and home care agencies. His cuts single out our public hospitals, our teaching hospitals, and our community and rural hospitals. None are spared. As Senator Schumer said, the President’s cuts are “an all-out assault” and “a dagger to the heart of New York’s health care.”

Governor Spitzer and the State Legislature must not add to the pain of President Bush’s health care cuts by cutting more. As a headline in the *New York Times* accurately stated earlier this week, the combination of the President’s budget and Governor Spitzer’s budget “hits New York hospitals hard.” Governor Spitzer’s cuts will cost New York hospitals \$500 million per year. Added to the President’s cuts, the total swells to \$1.6 billion—a devastating blow by any measure. And the Governor’s cuts to nursing homes are just as destructive.

The Governor’s cuts are not needed to balance the budget or to cover all children. Indeed, the Governor has proposed only \$11 million next year to increase health insurance coverage for kids—less than one percent of the value of the Medicaid cuts he has proposed. In light of President Bush’s all-out assault on New York’s health care system, we need the Governor and the Legislature to *protect* New Yorkers by amending the Governor’s budget to reflect new realities.

We stand ready and willing to work with the Governor, his staff, and the Legislature during the 21-day amendment period to change the Executive budget so that it truly puts 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, such as HMOs and drug companies, that are making huge profits at the expense of New York’s health care. The proposal can be found at 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!**