



TOP 10 REASONS THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD PUT PATIENTS FIRST BY REJECTING THE GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE CUTS

REASON #4: Governor Spitzer sends \$1.2 billion back to Washington, DC, funding that New York needs to “put patients first.”

Governor Spitzer proposes cutting health care by \$1.2 billion, including deep cuts to hospitals, nursing homes and home care. These drastic reductions come on top of the \$1.2 billion in cuts proposed by President Bush in his federal budget. One of the reasons the Governor cites for cutting health care is to re-invest the funding back into health care programs. He has stated that he wants to shift funding from “institutions” to patients.

Unfortunately, the Governor shifts funding from New York's patients and communities back to Washington, DC. **By reducing State Medicaid spending by \$1.2 billion, the Governor is essentially asking the State Legislature to write a check for \$1.2 billion—to George W. Bush. This is at a time when the Bush Administration seeks to cut New York's health care by *another*, separate \$1.2 billion.**

Medicaid spending triggers a huge Federal investment in New York State. For every dollar New Yorkers spend on Medicaid, the Federal government contributes another dollar to New York's health care system. The Medicaid program has actually helped to mitigate the imbalance of payments between New York and the Federal Treasury under which New Yorkers contribute far more to Washington, D.C. than they receive in Federal support.¹ Medicaid is one of the few New York State programs that leverages significant Federal spending and brings Federal dollars into the State—particularly into low-income communities where most Medicaid beneficiaries reside, helping to meet the health care needs of these communities as well as spurring economic development and creating jobs. Indeed, New York in recent years has shifted much “State-only” spending into the Medicaid column, so that the Federal government would help finance what used to be funded solely by the State.

Is this what Governor Spitzer *really* wants for our State?

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

¹ According to the Tax Foundation, New Yorkers sent \$8 billion more in Federal tax revenue to Washington, DC, in 2004 than they received back in Federal spending. www.taxfoundation.org

program, provide health insurance coverage for all New Yorkers, and take on the sectors of the health care system 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.

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