



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT  
ESTIMATES THAT BERGER COMMISSION, GOVERNOR SPITZER'S  
PROPOSED CUTS WILL ELIMINATE MORE THAN 36,000  
HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, AND OTHER JOBS**

**(New York)** – An analysis by the 1199 SEIU and Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) Healthcare Education Project (HEP) has found that the hospital closures and nursing home restructuring mandated by the Berger Commission, coupled with the enactment of Governor Eliot Spitzer's proposed \$1 billion in health care cuts, would result in the loss of an estimated 23,400 full-time equivalent hospital and nursing home jobs in New York State. The "multipliers" associated with these losses—the ripple effect of the loss of household income on local businesses such as restaurants and grocery stores—would trigger an additional loss of an estimated 13,000 non-health care jobs statewide (see attached chart).

The hospital closures and nursing home restructuring already underway from the force-of-law recommendations of the Berger Commission will eliminate 6,200 hospital jobs and 2,400 nursing home positions, numbers that take into account anticipated reemployment of a percentage of displaced workers via an agreement between 1199 SEIU and the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes of New York.

HEP estimates that Governor Spitzer's proposed cuts would eliminate an additional 5,700 hospital jobs and 9,100 nursing home positions. Since the financial condition of hospitals in New York is chronically poor—as was well documented in the Berger Commission report—and since the nursing home cuts are especially deep, both industries would have to respond to the Governor's proposed revenue cuts by curtailing services. And since both industries are highly labor-intensive, they will have no choice but to cut jobs.

"The permanent loss of nearly 9,000 full-time equivalent hospital and nursing home jobs from the Berger Commission recommendations is a painful reality that leaves no wiggle room to absorb the impact Governor Spitzer's cuts," said GNYHA president Kenneth E. Raske. "Eliminating thousands more jobs would be our only choice."

“The proposed Bush/Spitzer cuts would take a terrible toll on our patients and their families,” said 1199 SEIU president Dennis Rivera. “Coming on top of the planned closing and downsizing of 57 hospitals, the cuts are simply cruel. Why isn’t Governor Spitzer going after the HMOs and their billions in profits instead of frontline caregivers?”

While this press release was being sent, GNYHA and 1199 were in Albany briefing New York State lawmakers on the disastrous impact Governor Spitzer’s health care cuts would have on patients and communities throughout the State.

As an alternative to health care cuts, HEP has repeatedly shared its “Put Patients First” reform plan, the white paper *Shared Responsibility: A Prescription for Comprehensive Health Care Reform in New York*. Unlike the Governor’s proposals, the “Put Patients First” plan would truly reform the Medicaid 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](http://www.stopthecuts.org).

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The Healthcare Education Project is a collaborative initiative of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) to conduct education and advocacy efforts on critical health care issues. 1199 SEIU is the largest local in the United States, and the largest health care workers union on the eastern seaboard, representing over 275,000 healthcare workers employed in hospitals, nursing homes, home care, clinics and social service agencies in New York, Massachusetts, Maryland and the District of Columbia. GNYHA is a trade association representing more than 280 not-for-profit hospitals and continuing care facilities, both voluntary and public, in the metropolitan area and throughout the State, as well as in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.