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April 1, 2022

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul and Speaker Heastie:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns regarding proposed funding related to long-term care and nursing homes.

Unfortunately, while significant funding has been allocated, the current budget resolutions do not adequately address the essential needs of our state's non-profit and public nursing homes.

While the 1% increase to Medicaid is appreciated, it unfortunately is not nearly enough. During the pandemic, New York State was the *only* state in the nation to cut Medicaid. As a result of this and the desperate need to recruit and retain staff, the Medicaid increase needs to be higher.

Not only are nursing homes and long-term care facilities facing a staffing shortage crisis, but also the new rules of operation and the pandemic as a whole have exacerbated the financial stress many institutions were already feeling pre-pandemic. Additionally, over the last 14 years, they have not received a cost-of-living adjustment and are now facing a 7.5% general inflation rate. If a standard cost-of-living adjustment was enacted over the last 14 years, the long-term reimbursement rate could have been increased by as much as 31%.

We appreciate efforts by the governor to authorize the use of medication aides in nursing homes as this would provide immediate relief to some of the workforce challenges nursing homes are experiencing by providing needed flexibility, and we hope our colleagues in the Senate and Assembly will follow suit.

Lastly, we are requesting that the funding to help nursing homes meet the new "70/40" requirements last year be released immediately for them to utilize, as this would provide great help to these facilities. We also ask that you delay enacting the "70/40" direct-care minimum

spending legislation and the minimum staffing requirements approved in 2021 due to the current healthcare worker shortage and the struggling fiscal health of nursing homes across our state.

As New York sees the largest surplus funding in years, it's critical we use these funds to address the financial stress and impacts our state's institutions are facing. If we do our part today, we can help alleviate the staffing shortage and financial burden to provide New Yorker's using these facilities with the best care.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of these essential requirements on behalf of all nursing homes and long-term care facilities across New York State. The nursing home crisis our state is experiencing is having a trickling, detrimental effect on hospitals and our health care system as a whole. It's paramount we address the critical needs of nursing homes and long-term facilities before even more damage is done to our health care system. We appreciate your attention to this very important matter and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Josh Jensen
134th AD



Joseph Angelino
122nd AD



Jacob Ashby
107th AD



Keith Brown
12th AD



Jeffrey Gallahan
131st AD



Steve Hawley
139th AD



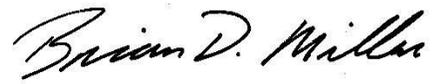
Michael Lawler
97th AD



John Lemondes
126th AD



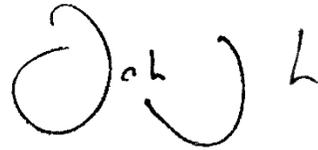
Brian Manktelow
130th AD



Brian Miller
101st AD



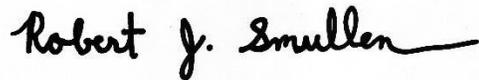
Philip Palmesano
132nd AD



John Salka
121st AD



Matthew Simpson
114th AD



Robert Smullen
118th AD



Christopher Tague
102nd AD



Mark Walczyk
116th AD