



December 13, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As the budget season nears, we are writing to seek restoration of the \$78.6M in operating aid cut this year from the three SUNY teaching hospitals. The impact of this cut was felt at each of our institutions.

We run major safety net hospitals that provide quality healthcare to the poorest of our state's residents. Elimination of this funding seriously impacts our ability to provide vital services to the most vulnerable in our communities. Out of the \$78.6M, Downstate Medical Center normally receives around \$20M, Stony Brook University Hospital receives \$34M, and Upstate University Hospital receives \$24M. We understand that the coming year will be difficult from a state budget standpoint, particularly due to the strain on the Medicaid budget. Medicaid recipients make up a significant percentage of our patient mix. As such, we are especially concerned about any possible future cuts, particularly to the DSH program, which would devastate our ability to provide quality care to those in need.

Additionally, we respectfully request that SUNY hospital campuses be treated like all other SUNY campuses by having the NYS capital budget pick up capital debt service. We are also hopeful that you will continue for the next four years the \$100M in capital appropriations divided equally between Stony Brook and Upstate and will include a \$50M capital appropriation for Downstate. Each of our hospitals have vital capital projects needed for health and safety and continuation of this funding will create jobs and serve patient needs.

We thank you for your leadership on healthcare matters and hope that you will contact us if we can be helpful as you sort through the options to fund healthcare in the coming budget. We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Wayne J. Riley, M.D.
President
Downstate Medical Center

Michael Bernstein, Ph.D.
Interim President
Stony Brook University

Mantosh Dewan, M.D.
Interim President
Upstate University Hospital

cc: Chancellor Kristina Johnson
Robert Mujica
Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
Senator Gustavo Rivera
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Assemblymember Deborah Glick
Assemblyman Richard Gottfried