

Dear Budget Leadership Team:

My name is Peter Bloom and I am the Director of IT/Telecommunications at the Jewish Home LifeCare in Manhattan. We are a long-term care and rehabilitation organization that serves almost 10,000 NY elders annually through skilled nursing, post acute care, home health care, adult day health programs and senior housing.

Thank you for creating the opportunity for the long-term care community to participate in the New York State 2008 budget decision-making process.

As you have traveled across the state to attend the public hearings, I'm sure you have met and heard from many elders, their families and caregivers about how devastating continued cuts to healthcare for seniors can be. These are the same elders I care for at Jewish Home.

Cuts to Medicaid hurt our elders and compromise the quality of their lives. *Jewish Home is their home*; when services and staff are reduced or cut because of budget ramifications, the elders are the ones who are hardest hit because they depend on us to take care of them. They need help to eat and dress and bathe and to take their medications. Can you imagine not being able to perform these activities yourselves? And not having help when you needed it?

Additionally, the Jewish Home will be hardest hit by any proposed Medicaid reductions in the State budget for the following reasons:

- The long-standing shortfall of approximately \$25 per day between what Medicaid pays and the cost of care for a long-term resident.
- We are facing a devastating cut in 2009 of the "Medicaid-only case mix" that will shift funding for subacute and rehab programs that are now paid for by Medicare.
- We are not receiving any of the money generated by the nursing home rebasing initiative that Jewish Home has voluntarily participated in to rebuild our Manhattan campus.

I urge the Governor not to propose any cuts to Medicaid and long-term care in the 2008-2009 State Budget and to partner with the long-term care community to support needed reforms and investment in quality care. It's time to think of our seniors and frail elders and not just pay attention to dollar signs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Bloom
Jewish Home LifeCare Systems

Director I/T Technical Services and Telecommunications
Corporate HIPAA Security Officer
Office: 212-870-5974
Fax: 212-870-5944