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New York State Health Facilities Association Statement on State Budget Nursing Home Initiatives

Albany, New York — Stephen Hanse, President and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association, a statewide association representing over 450 not-for-profit, proprietary and government sponsored nursing homes and assisted living providers issued the following statement in response to the initiatives included with the State Budget affecting long-term care.

“In the final State budget, the Governor and legislators failed to address the two most important issues facing nursing homes in our State, namely New York’s long-term care workforce staffing crisis and the State’s 12+ years of slashing over \$2 billion in Medicaid funding to nursing homes.”

“Instead of implementing specific policies to recruit and retain new workers and reverse years of nursing home disinvestment, the State implemented a one size fits all law dictating how all nursing homes are to allocate their financial resources, ignoring the unique nature and resident needs of each nursing home.”

“Perversely, the 70/40 spending mandate does nothing to improve quality in nursing homes. In fact, in many cases, the 70/40 spending mandate harms the highest quality, fully staffed 4- and 5-star nursing homes by requiring that funds be redirected from other patient care investments and building improvements and be used only for certain staff.

“The Governor and the Legislature are well aware that the average cost of providing 24-hour Medicaid nursing home care in New York is \$266 per resident per day, but the State only pays an average of \$211 per resident per day – or \$8.79 per hour! This \$55 Medicaid deficit is the largest in the Nation, however, the 70/40 mandate fails to address this deficit and continues the State’s financial disregard for our seniors.”

“If the State was truly sincere about nursing home reform, the Budget would have implemented measures to recruit and retain new workers in long-term care. Moreover, it would have once and for all treated our seniors as an investment and not as an expense. In failing to address these two issues, the State Budget failed to implement true and meaningful nursing home reform.”

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