

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 21, 2022 Embargoed until 4:30 pm
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NYS Health Facilities Association Statement in Response to AG and 1199 SEIU Press Conference

Albany, New York — Stephen Hanse, President and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association (“NYSHFA”), a statewide organization representing over 450 not-for profit, proprietary and government sponsored skilled nursing and assisted living facilities issued the following statement in response to a joint press conference held by Attorney General James and 1199 SEIU about nursing homes.

“New York is in the midst of a long-term care workforce crisis that threatens access to essential skilled nursing and assisted living care throughout our State. For the past 14 years, New York has cut over \$1 billion in necessary funding to nursing homes severely impacting the ability of providers to compete in today’s labor market for essential care workers. These cuts and the State’s incredibly low Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rates¹ directly limit the ability of providers to retain current staff and compete for new workers.”

“It’s been said that if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging! 1199 SEIU’s efforts to advance the unrealistic 70/40 and 3.5 staffing mandates during a workforce crisis is like advancing a law to make the sun rise in the West. It’s simply not possible!”

“Recognizing that New York is facing a once in a generation healthcare staffing crisis, Governor Hochul has issued an Executive Order staying these 70/40 and 3.5 staffing mandate laws recognizing that there are not enough workers and not enough revenue to implement these initiatives which her administration inherited from the prior administration.”

“Special interest press conferences in support of unattainable staffing mandates do nothing to solve New York’s long-term care workforce crisis. Only collaboration between government, providers and labor working together to advance tangible actions such as increasing the State’s nation leading low Medicaid rate and implementing initiatives to recruit and retain workers will solve New York’s long-term care workforce crisis.”

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¹ Hunter Hanson & Co., a certified public accounting firm, has conducted for several years a comprehensive national survey of Medicaid rates set by states across the country. The most recent analysis of the year 2018 found that New York State’s daily nursing home Medicaid reimbursement rate fell short of costs by an average of \$54.77, which is the highest shortfall in the nation.