

## SUNY's ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

The state hospitals in Brooklyn, Syracuse and Stony Brook are known as hospitals of last resort. The facilities turn no one away, regardless of whether they can pay for care. Many patients with especially difficult, rare or hard-to-treat medical conditions are sent to SUNY's public hospitals.

SUNY's hospitals are also teaching hospitals. They provide an invaluable pipeline of doctors and medical professionals to New York City and the state. New York students account for 85 percent of first-year medical students at SUNY medical schools, and many graduates stay and practice in New York.

And with a workforce of more than 25,000, SUNY's academic medical centers are indispensable economic components of the local and regional communities they serve.

### Economic Benefits for Communities and the State

- Upstate Medical University—Central New York's largest employer.
- Stony Brook Health Sciences Center—employs more than 5,000 health care professionals.
- Downstate Medical Center—Brooklyn's fourth-largest employer.
- University at Buffalo Health Sciences Center—employs more than 1,000 faculty and staff.



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## A Renewed Commitment to SUNY's Academic Medical Centers



The SUNY academic medical centers in Brooklyn, Syracuse and Stony Brook are public hospitals that do not turn a profit—nor should they. They are not operated by cities, or counties or private health care conglomerates.

They are *state* hospitals.

The care, treatment and safety of the hundreds of thousands of patients served by SUNY hospitals is the state's responsibility.

# SUNY: ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

## THE OBJECTIVE

To end decades of significant and inequitable state underfunding of SUNY's academic medical centers.

## BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2018-2019

The state's subsidy for SUNY's three teaching hospitals has been cut by \$75 million since 2008. Losing these funds impact the hospitals' ability to care for the uninsured and underinsured patients they must serve.

**The entire state hospital subsidy — \$78.6 million — was cut from the proposed Executive Budget.**

This year, this important subsidy was cut completely from the proposed 2018-2019 Executive Budget.

Until this year, the state annually funded the hospitals' entitlements under the Federal Disproportionate Share Program (DSH)—a crucial federal financing supplement to Medicaid for institutions that serve large indigent populations.

There have been delays in the last year on the part of the state in releasing DSH funds to SUNY's hospitals in Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse. These delays create financial difficulties for the hospitals.

And, finally, there exists the looming threat of federal DSH reductions that went into effect in October 2017. New York will lose \$339 million if Congress fails to extend the deadline. That will grow to a loss of \$2.6 billion by 2025.



## WHAT'S NEEDED

- ✓ **Restore the \$78.6 million hospital subsidy** cut from the proposed 2018-19 Executive Budget. Allocate an additional \$74.4 million to return the hospital subsidy to its original level of \$153 million. Cutting the hospitals' subsidy will weaken their ability to carry out SUNY's mission—codified in state Education Law—to strengthen “its educational and research programs in the health sciences through the provision of high quality general comprehensive and specialty health care, broadly accessible at reasonable cost.”
- ✓ **Support a SUNY proposal** requesting the state pay \$36.1 million to cover the hospitals' debt service. Direct responsibility for debt service is an additional burden on the hospitals— a burden that other state-operated entities are not required to bear.
- ✓ **Approve legislation** to force the state to meet mandates to match federal DSH payments with Medicaid dollars, and require it to pay all future DSH payments owed to the hospitals.
- ✓ **Pass a law** that would protect SUNY's public hospitals from DSH allocation cutbacks due to changes in federal legislation.
- ✓ **Add \$15 million** to create the Buffalo Teaching Health Care Fellows program. SUNY Buffalo's Health Science Center faces the difficult challenge of providing high-quality medical training for its residents without its own clinical hospital. This program would convert Academic Scholars to Teaching Health Care Fellows. Under the plan, these fellows, who would be permanent SUNY employees, would focus on training residents and would have a 20 percent cap on clinical work. This would free up the Teaching Fellows to focus on training residents in the skills they will need to provide high-quality care, primarily in outpatient settings.

