

February, 2010

Governor David Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

As your constituent and as someone concerned about ensuring quality care for seniors, I urge you **not to make further cuts to Medicaid payments to nursing homes** as proposed in the 2010-2011 New York State budget. By doing so, you will enable the elder care field to work with the state to reshape services and create a fiscally sound future while maintaining quality care.

According to New York State Department of Health calculations, it is estimated that the 2010-2011 proposed state budget – if enacted - will result in a Medicaid revenue loss of between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to The Friendly Home in Rochester, a non-profit, mission-driven provider of long-term skilled nursing care. While we recognize that the state is facing financial hardship, health care services for the frail elderly have given up more than their fair share, and there is simply no more to give.

The Friendly Home has worked to become more efficient by diversifying its program offerings, embracing technology and maximizing staff productivity while continuing to provide quality care. Yet Medicaid payments remain grossly insufficient for long-term care providers in New York State; in fact, The Friendly Home was reimbursed only .62 cents for each dollar of cost to provide care in 2009.

Your willingness to say no to any further cuts will ensure that providers like The Friendly Home have a foundation to support New York's aging population safely and efficiently into the future.

Governor Paterson, I strongly urge you to remove the Medicaid cuts as proposed in the 2010-2011 budget, and look forward to your support of New York's frail elderly as this vulnerable population continues to grow. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Signature

Please Print Name Here

Address (Please Print)

City, State, Zip (Please Print)