

February, 2010

Dear _____,

As your constituent and as someone concerned about ensuring quality care for seniors, I urge you to reject further cuts to Medicaid payments to nursing homes as proposed in the 2010-2011 New York State budget presented by Governor Paterson. 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. Your willingness to say no to any further cuts will ensure that not-for-profit, mission-driven providers like The Friendly Home have a foundation to support New York's aging population safely and efficiently into the future.

According to New York State Department of Health calculations, it is estimated that the 2010-2011 proposed state budget will result in a Medicaid revenue loss of between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to The Friendly Home. 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.

I strongly urge you to vote against the Medicaid cuts as proposed in the Governor's budget. Thank you for your support and I look forward to your continued advocacy on behalf of New York's frail elderly.

Sincerely,

Signature

Please Print Name Here

Address (Please Print)

City, State, Zip (Please Print)