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It's Time to Act for Equity Action is Needed Quickly to Address One-House Bills

New York's budget proposals continue the inequitable and shameful status quo on funding for hospitals that care for uninsured individuals. A6677 ("the H+H/Community Proposal") was created by NYC Health + Hospitals with a community coalition and would change how indigent care dollars are distributed to:

1. Reward hospitals that care for uninsured people, and
2. Support hospitals with large numbers of Medicaid patients.

The Governor largely ignored this proposal in his proposed budget and in his 30-day amendments, decreased indigent care funding for certain voluntary hospitals to save money.

Both the Assembly and Senate left out the H+H/Community Proposal from their one-house bills:

- The Senate bill voices support for changes to the Indigent Care Pool that benefit true safety net providers and supports equitable language in the event of Disproportionate Hospital Payments cuts. We support this principle and the enacted budget must include language supporting it.
- The Assembly One-House budget not only fails to include the H+H/Community Proposal, it extends the transition "collar" from 2012 for a sixth year, preventing yet again full implementation of improvements the legislature passed seven years ago. This is for the benefit of profitable hospitals that provide the least amount of care to Medicaid members and uninsured.

Senate and Assembly leaders must:

- End the transition collar that starves and destabilizes hospitals that take care of low-income and Medicaid-insured funded patients. When all hospitals are stable, it's better for all health care consumers in the communities they serve.
 - Prioritize the H+H/Community Proposal (Assembly Bill A6677) in budget negotiations for changes in the ICP fund distribution to true safety net hospitals. Ensure the Senate's principle of adequately reimbursing hospitals that provide a higher percentage of uncompensated care in maintained in the enacted budget. See the attached document for more information about the H+H/Community proposal.
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