



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - - Statement from Partnership for Medicaid Press Event

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STATEMENT ON ENHANCING MEDICAID IN THE ECONOMIC RELIEF PACKAGE

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President and CEO
Nassau Health Care Corporation and NAPH Member
January 27, 2009**

Washington, D.C. – On behalf of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) and the Partnership for Medicaid, we call on Congress and the Obama Administration to take immediate action to strengthen Medicaid.

Safety net hospitals are facing major cuts in their communities when demand for service is at an all time high. The Nassau Health Care Corporation is seeing the effects of these cuts up close. We have also seen an increase of 15 percent in uninsured patients coming to our doors for care since 2007 – a trend which is mirrored in safety net hospitals in communities across the country. Demand for services at public hospitals has risen sharply since last year due to the rising rates of the unemployed during this economic downturn.

NAPH urges lawmakers to enhance the Medicaid program and provide relief to providers in an economic relief package to cover the additional costs of caring for the newly uninsured.

Medicaid and SCHIP together provide essential health care services to more than 63 million people who would be hardest hit by depleted funding. Ensuring that these people do not fall through the cracks requires a substantial immediate investment of federal assistance to meet the increasing demand and ensure access to care.

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) represents America's most important safety net hospitals and health systems. These facilities provide high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country's default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community-wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America's doctors, nurses, and other health care providers.