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NYAHS President Carl Young's Statement on State Budget Cuts to Long Term Care

New York's not-for-profit and public long term care providers understand that the state is dealing with a large deficit and we certainly appreciate that the governor has faced some hard choices in preparing his 2008 state budget. We remain concerned, however, that the proposed cuts to nursing homes and home care will have a negative impact on the lives of seniors and people with disabilities who receive care in those settings.

As our new report, "Nursing Home Funding Cuts: A Threat to Quality and Long Term Care Reform" issued last week stated, the 2007-08 state budget cut Medicaid nursing home funding by \$114 million. A survey of our nursing home members revealed that one in 10 nursing homes is seriously considering closure due to last year's cuts. And, additional Medicaid cuts would lead to more staffing and other cuts, affecting access to quality care and interfering with efforts to create a more person-centered system.

We remain committed to pursuing reforms to the long term care system that will lead to savings for taxpayers and more choices for people with chronic care needs. However, these reforms require a stable financial platform, and we believe the cuts proposed in the 2008-09 executive budget will jeopardize the very providers who want to work with the state.

We at NYAHS look forward to working with the governor and legislative leaders to explore ways to eliminate these cuts that directly impact New York's seniors.

Copies of the NYAHS report "Nursing Home Funding Cuts: A Threat to Quality and Long Term Care Reform" are available by visiting the association's Web site at www.nyahsa.org.

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Founded in 1961, the New York Association of Homes & Services for the Aging is the only statewide organization representing the entire continuum of not-for-profit and public continuing care providers, including senior housing, assisted living, adult care facilities, retirement communities, home care agencies, adult day health care programs, managed long term care plans and nursing homes.