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### **NYAHS President Carl Young's Statement on 21-Day Amendments**

News that the state is in the same dire straits as many of New York's nursing homes brings little comfort to New York's frail and chronically disabled seniors.

NYAHS and its not-for-profit and public provider members said the first round of proposed cuts were a bad idea. These larger cuts are an even worse idea when you consider that just recently the Bush Administration announced plans to cut over \$200 billion from Medicare and Medicaid at a time when New York's and the nation's populations are aging and providers are seeing an increased demand for services.

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.

As our recently issued report, "Nursing Home Funding Cuts: A Threat to Quality and Long Term Care Reform" 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.

*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](http://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.*