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NEWS RELEASE



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HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION RESPONSE TO SENATE & ASSEMBLY ONE-HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSALS *Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO*

“We appreciate the high priority the Senate and Assembly have given to restoring the proposed cuts to the Medicaid program in their respective one-house budget proposals.

“While we recognize the fiscal challenges facing the state, the Administration’s proposed Medicaid cuts would have a devastating impact on our member health plans and the individuals they serve. As HPA’s health plans are operating on extremely thin margins, restoring the Medicaid cuts is a critical step to protecting the coverage they provide to the state’s most vulnerable residents.

“Our member health plans have been consistent, reliable partners in the state’s Medicaid Redesign efforts and in implementing the Affordable Care Act, making it possible for New York’s success in insuring more than 95 percent of state residents. As state leaders work to close the budget gap, the focus should be on real and meaningful reforms in health care spending to rein in costs and are not just merely cuts in the rates paid to health plans that, ultimately, will threaten the high-level of coverage that New York has achieved.”