



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP, LONG ISLAND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS CONDEMN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED CUTS TO MEDICARE

1st District Hospitals Would Take \$28 Million Hit

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Tim Bishop and hospital administrators across the 1st Congressional District were dismayed this week to learn that President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget proposes to cut Medicare reimbursements to local medical facilities by approximately \$28 million over the next five years. New York's health care industry faces \$1.2 billion in cutbacks, part of the President's plan to cut \$36 billion nationally from health care providers through fiscal year 2011. Bishop today released information which details the hit local hospitals will take.

"The President's proposed cuts to our local hospitals will hurt Long Island's most vulnerable families and senior citizens who can least afford increased costs to their health care," Bishop stated. "Seniors are still reeling from the deeply flawed Medicare prescription drug program and now may face higher costs at the hospital. Gutting funding for hospitals doesn't save taxpayer dollars; it passes the buck to Long Islanders and places a greater strain on our health care system."

"The President's proposed budget cut exacerbates an already challenging financial situation of hospitals in NY and on Long Island. For Southampton Hospital these cuts would be devastating especially when combined with cuts proposed by the Governor," stated Southampton Hospital President and CEO John Kastanis. "Hospitals on Long Island are already operating on little or no margins. The President's proposed cuts would have a significant impact on our continued ability to serve our patients who are some of the most vulnerable members of our community." Southampton Hospital faces cuts of nearly \$1.6 million over five years in the President's proposal.

"The Long Island region will experience a reduction of \$125 million over the next five years if these proposed cuts are enacted. Nearly \$30 million of these would occur in the 1st Congressional District," stated Kevin Dahill, President/CEO Nassau Suffolk Hospital Council. "This will result in significant program reductions and possibly some full hospital closings."

The President's proposed cuts come at a time when hospitals in New York are operating at negative margins for the past seven years, according to the Greater New York Hospital Association. Financial problems have caused 33 New York hospitals to close over the past decade. New York HMOs, on the other hand, reported profits of \$3.7 billion for the past six years, according to the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council.

"My priorities include providing safe and affordable health care, which is why I will fight to oppose

these cuts and enlist the aid of my colleagues,” Bishop stated. "We need a majority in Congress to stand up to the President and oppose devastating our nation's hospitals."

If the President's budget is enacted, the following hospitals in the 1st Congressional District will lose funding:

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital	\$3,804,849
Central Suffolk Hospital	\$1,438,890
Eastern Long Island Hospital	\$649,744
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital	\$3,387,406
Southampton Hospital	\$1,589,669
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center	\$2,786,822
St. Charles Hospital	\$5,645,900
Stony Brook University Hospital	\$8,656,465

Two other major local hospitals located outside the 1st Congressional District, Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip and North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset will respectively lose \$5,749,052 and \$16,473,893 over the next five years.

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