



April 15, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to you regarding the future of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (Downstate) and its affiliates, and the need for transparency and legislative and community oversight of the process by which the State University of New York (SUNY) seeks to restructure Downstate facilities.

Downstate is a keystone healthcare provider in New York City. Across its facilities and schools in Brooklyn, Downstate delivers healthcare services to a diverse, often uninsured or underinsured population, provides critical diversity in medical education, and employs approximately 8,000 faculty and staff.

New York State’s Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII Budget Bill, S2606D, Part Q, requires a “sustainability plan” to be submitted by the Chancellor of SUNY on or before June 1, 2013, and approved by the Health Commissioner and the Director of the Division of Budget (DOB) for implementation by June 15, 2013. In the development of this plan the bill states that the SUNY Chancellor “shall consult with labor representatives, community representatives, and other regional stakeholders.”

With this in mind, we respectfully request that the Chancellor and the Department of Health (DOH) form a working group that includes federal, state, and city elected officials representing University Hospital and Long Island College Hospital, a representative from each community board representing those locations, an additional representative from community organizations representing those locations, and representatives from appropriate labor organizations. Such a working group should be empowered to oppose or reject the sustainability plan before it is submitted to DOH and DOB for approval.

In addition, we ask that you meet with us to discuss the restructuring of Downstate before any determination is made. We look forward to continuing to work with you to reach a resolution that works for our community, Brooklyn, and the entire state.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
New York State Senator

Joan Millman
New York State Assemblymember

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

Brad Lander
New York City Councilmember

Stephen Levin
New York City Councilmember

Martin Malave Dilan
New York State Senator

Eric Adams
New York State Senator

Diane Savino
New York State Senator

Velmanette Montgomery
New York State Senator

Kevin Parker
New York State Senator

Simcha Felder
New York State Senator

Karim Camara
New York State Assemblymember

Nick Perry
New York State Assemblymember

James Brennan
New York State Assemblymember

Alan Maisel
New York State Assemblymember

Walter Mosley
New York State Assemblymember

Rafael Espinal Jr.
New York State Assemblymember

Rhoda Jacobs
New York State Assemblymember

Peter Abbate Jr.
New York State Assemblymember

William Colton
New York State Assemblymember

Steven Cymbrowitz
New York State Assemblymember

Annette Robinson
New York State Assemblymember

Vito Lopez
New York State Assemblymember

Felix Ortiz
New York State Assemblymember

Joseph Lentol
New York State Assemblymember

Alec Brook-Krasny
New York State Assemblymember

Letitia James
New York City Councilmember

Charles Barron
New York City Councilmember

Albert Vann
New York City Councilmember

Vincent Gentile
New York City Councilmember

Domenic Recchia
New York City Councilmember

Michael Nelson
New York City Councilmember