

# **IROQUOIS NEWS**

**January 30, 2009**

## **Historic Election, Historic Budget Deficit**

Governor Paterson's 2009-2010 budget proposal was released one month early in December, as the Administration grapples with an historic State deficit. His proposal includes many components and significant cuts, taxes, and reform for hospitals. The health care component of the budget is highly technical and redistributive. We need your support in this complex policy debate. Every institution needs to articulate the specific human and community impacts of proposed cuts and taxes and the need for a true, shared sacrifice across New York State, not a disproportionate health care burden.

It is also significant to note that the 2008 election was historic, not only for our nation, but also for the IHA region. Prior to November, the Senate Republicans held the majority. Twelve Republican Senators within the IHA region were a powerful voice and delegation. While our region maintained Republican representation, downstate the Democrats won some additional seats. The Democrats have a slim 2-seat majority in the Senate, but the IHA region now has 3 Senators in the majority, and there are only 5 in all of Upstate. It is critical that the needs of Upstate communities are kept at the forefront especially given the downstate perspective of the elected leaders.

IHA is meeting with legislators to express our opposition to the Hospital Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) and Medicaid cuts. We are also discussing the complexity of the reform. With the possibility of a federal stimulus package including \$5 billion for the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program (FMAP), we are urging the Legislature to support these Medicaid funds to be used for Medicaid.

There are numerous advocacy activities planned throughout the coming months including press conferences and delegation meetings. Many of you joined us in Albany this week for a leadership advocacy day at the Capitol. We encourage you to help us help you by continuing your local advocacy and making your voice heard.

## **The U.S. Economy, Jobs and Healthcare**

As the U.S. economy mires in an economic recession not seen since the Great Depression, there is one sector of the economy that appears to be bucking the trend: health care. While the number of non-farm employees on the payroll fell nationwide by more than 2 million between December 2007 and December 2008, health care providers added over 30,000 jobs. Demographics indicate this trend should continue. As New York State struggles to close its \$15 billion state budget deficit, in large part through healthcare provider cuts, it should take note of this trend. Our state must be careful not to contribute to the worsening employment numbers by harming one of our economy's few growing sectors.

## **Special Programs Offered by Iroquois**

Iroquois offers various Special Programs to assist health care facilities to improve their organizational efficiency. We offer these programs to help lower expenses, allow organizations to work more efficiently, solve problems, and assist with planning. For detailed information about all of our special programs please go to [Organizational Efficiencies](#).

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The Iroquois News is an email publication of the Iroquois Healthcare Alliance and United Iroquois Shared Services. The publication is distributed as needed to share information. The news contains information regarding advocacy and an overview of the state and Federal political landscape as it impacts the health care industry in Upstate New York; initiatives of the Association including but not limited to workforce initiatives, bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, regulatory notifications; and information about our for-profit services including UISS group purchasing. To unsubscribe, please notify [IroquoisNewsletter@iroquois.org](mailto:IroquoisNewsletter@iroquois.org).