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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

IHA  
[Kathleen Kirvin](#)  
518.348-7457

## Statement by Gary J. Fitzgerald, President and CEO of Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, on Governor Hochul's State of the State Address

ALBANY, NY —Today, Governor Hochul delivered her first and historic State of the State address. I commend Governor Hochul on outlining a very ambitious and much needed healthcare agenda for New York in the coming year and beyond.

IHA is very pleased that Governor Hochul has outlined in her address several major policy priorities that IHA has been advocating. These are long-held priorities that have been overlooked for far too long.

Addressing these priorities will help Upstate and rural hospitals navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for a post COVID-19 era.

Among Governor Hochul's and IHA's shared priorities are:

- Expanding workforce by 20% over the next 5 years
- Investing \$10 billion in health care workforce
- Increasing training capacity and tuition incentives
- Recruiting Medical Professionals to work in underserved areas
- Allow Medical Professionals from other states to relocate and practice in NY
- Retaining existing workforce allowing for regulatory flexibilities and improved training

While IHA and our member hospitals await the full details of these proposals, we are buoyed by having a partner in the Executive Branch that has recognized the needs of our Upstate and rural hospitals. After two particularly bruising pandemic years, IHA looks forward to continuing these critically important conversations and bringing much needed relief to hospitals and health systems across Upstate New York.

IHA eagerly stands ready to work with Governor Hochul, Legislative Leaders and all of our partners in the Legislature this session.

**About the [Iroquois Healthcare Association](#):** IHA is a regional healthcare trade organization representing 54 hospitals and health systems, spanning over 28,000 square miles, across 32 counties of Upstate New York. IHA is the leading resource for facilities and professionals bringing quality health care to the region. IHA represents the unique needs of rural, small community safety-net providers to large, academic medical centers in Upstate New York's urban areas through advocacy, education and information, cost-savings initiatives and innovative business solutions.