



Funding for SUNY Hospitals and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I am extremely concerned about the proposal in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget which would again provide no cash subsidy for SUNY's three teaching hospitals and reduce the capital budget for Roswell Park by \$6 million. These ill-conceived proposals must be rectified as they threaten the long-term viability of our public hospitals and the nation's first cancer center.

For the last decade, the funding for SUNY's three hospitals (Upstate in Syracuse, Downstate in Brooklyn and Stony Brook on Long Island) has been in decline. A subsidy that was once \$153 million in 2018 is proposed to be eliminated. These facilities will be forced to make cuts, even as their services for all who need medical attention, regardless of health insurance, have been in greater demand than ever before. This is especially true for SUNY Downstate, which was a COVID-only hospital during the height of the pandemic.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is in a similar situation, facing a reduction in state funding while trying to maintain the high level of care that it has been known for since 1898.

The State of New York has a moral obligation to continue to support these facilities. Our public hospitals are unique. They help train new doctors and other medical professionals, while serving all members of the community, rich or poor. A lack of funding for these three hospitals and Roswell Park would have a dramatic effect on healthcare services across the state.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to restore the traditional cash subsidy for SUNY hospitals in the amount of \$175 million and restore the \$6 million proposed cut to the Roswell Park capital budget. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
