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**Aging Services Association Calls on Governor Cuomo to Reject Cuts to Medicaid Providers to Help Them Fight the Coronavirus**

Health care providers on the front line of New York's battle against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are appealing to Governor Andrew Cuomo to reverse a series of Medicaid cuts that jeopardize New York's most vulnerable population as reported cases of the disease continue to increase.

LeadingAge New York, a statewide association representing 400 providers of housing and care services for 500,000 older New Yorkers ranging from in-home personal assistance to long-term skilled care, is focused on the actions of the Cuomo Administration's 2020 Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT). The MRT has some thoughtful and pragmatic reforms that would help providers in this difficult time; however, it also recommends cuts to nursing homes that make no sense given the pandemic.

Among its recommendations approved on March 19 are sweeping cuts totaling \$1.1 billion, including \$715 million on the long term care community and an additional \$400 million cut to health care providers and city hospitals.

"The Governor should reject cuts to long term care providers on the front line of battling the COVID-19 virus. The cost of fighting this public health emergency needs to be recognized and reimbursed by the state and federal government," said James W. Clyne, Jr., President of LeadingAge New York.

"You cannot fight a public health war, against an invisible enemy, and simultaneously take an action that sacrifices the most vulnerable population because you are trying to balance a budget," Clyne continued.

LeadingAge New York additionally is imploring state and federal leaders to provide sufficient operational funding to ensure adequate staff is available for the duration of the crisis and make immediate investment in personal protective equipment to help those who are fighting to protect the frail and vulnerable from becoming casualties in the most significant public health challenge in our lifetime.