



March 9, 2011

Dear Legislator:

The home care system in New York State is in severe jeopardy.

The Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) recommendations and the Governor's 30-day amendments impacting home care would cause the collapse of New York State's home and community based care system. Provider-based care management models – like those that have a long history of providing care to the frail elderly, chronically ill and disabled patients in your community – would be decimated by these proposals. Vital, life-sustaining home care services for your constituents are in danger of elimination.

In particular, HCA opposes the following MRT/30-day budget amendment provisions:

- **Mandatory enrollment of all chronically ill, disabled and frail elderly patients into managed care plans, including Managed Long Term Care plans (MLTCs).** This proposal would needlessly and recklessly shut down existing care management models like those that exist in New York's Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) and in Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHAs). These provider-based, community models would be eliminated, wasting and rolling back 30 years of state investment in the creation of a home and community based care system.
- **An unfunded wage mandate for home care agencies.** HCA has estimated that this new wage mandate imposed on providers would add \$418 million in new, unfunded costs to agencies. On top of this mandate are new, far-reaching contracting provisions that would use state law and state government for collective bargaining and wage control of the provision of all home care services. These latter provisions are unprecedented and breathtaking in their scope in the home care arena and were not based on any Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) recommendations, appearing for the first time in the Governor's 30-day amendments.
- **A staggering, disproportionate level of cuts aimed toward the home care system.** The \$418 million unfunded wage mandate combined with \$593 million (state and federal shares) in cuts will bring the total MRT target for home care to more than \$1 billion. Home care represents 12% of total State Medicaid spending, yet is hit by 36% of the MRT's effects. The home and community based care system in New York

State will not survive these cuts. Longstanding home care agencies in communities like yours will close.

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) and its hundreds of community based provider members have offered the MRT and the Cuomo Administration 17 cost-saving ideas that would generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings to the Medicaid program. Included in this list of ideas are payment reforms, efficiencies and the elimination of unnecessary bureaucracy that would preserve what is workable and good about New York's home care system, while saving the Medicaid program funding. Instead of adopting our ideas, the MRT proposals include unprecedented cuts, mandates and reckless proposals which will cause the destruction of New York's home care system.

HCA asks for your immediate, active help to stop the disproportionate, reckless and unnecessary assault caused by the MRT home care proposals and communicate your vigorous opposition to this plan within the leadership structure of your legislative chamber and to the Governor. For more information about home care and the budget impact on patients in the community, please see the "Power of Home Care" video linked to [www.powerofhomecare.org](http://www.powerofhomecare.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joanne Cunningham  
President  
Home Care Association of New York State (HCA)

# Nicole Needs Your Voice

To Save New York's Home Care System from the Disproportionate \$1 Billion Assault by Governor Cuomo's Medicaid Redesign Plan



Nicole is a mother of two, a wife, a daughter, a sister and a friend. She currently receives **home care services** through the VNA of Central New York. In 2007, at age 27, Nicole was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was four-months pregnant and needed immediate life-saving surgery. Nicole fell into a coma but still delivered a healthy baby.

Though left with severe physical disabilities, Nicole's home care allows her to live at home with her family, improves her quality of life, and **saves Medicaid dollars** by keeping her out of the hospital or nursing home.

**Speak up for Nicole by standing up for home care.**

**Call your legislators today and tell them to reject the Governor's \$1 billion assault on home care.**  
Dial the Senate at (518) 455-2800 and the Assembly at (518) 455-4100.

[www.powerofhomecare.org](http://www.powerofhomecare.org)



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