

For Immediate Release: December 16, 2008

Contact: Roger L. Noyes (518) 810-0665  
(518) 275-6961 cell

## **A Statement by HCA President Joanne Cunningham On the Governor's Proposed 2009-10 Executive Budget**

*HCA today joins the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHSA) in issuing a report on the fiscal condition of home care providers*

*HCA/NYAHSA Report: Seventy-one percent of programs serving long-term home health care needs and 53% of programs serving patients with post-acute/preventive home care needs reported operating losses in 2006, due to inadequate reimbursement and rising costs*

*HCA/NYAHSA Report: Added Medicaid cuts will make it even harder for agencies to recruit and retain sufficient staff*

*HCA/NYASHA Report: Nearly half of providers may seriously consider closing their doors under further Medicaid cuts*

\*\*\*

**HCA President Joanne Cunningham** today said: "As the Governor today announced a budget proposal which further slashes home health care to unstable and unsustainable levels, our report released today reveals an already grim financial picture that just got considerably worse."

"The statistical and field-level evidence in our report confirms that further Medicaid reductions of this kind and level will be catastrophic," she added. "It forewarns of New York losing as much as half of our home health care agencies given such further Medicaid cuts. Indeed, home care cuts like these would be disastrous for seniors, the sick and persons with disabilities who depend on home care."

The full HCA/NYAHSA report, released today, can be obtained online at:  
<http://www.hca-nys.org/documents/HCANYAHSAJointHomeCareReport2008.pdf>

###