



August 18, 2025

To: Members of the Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Legislature
From: Michael N. Romita, President & CEO of the Westchester County Association
Re: Support Regional Healthcare Providers in the Wake of the Federal Tax Policy Bill

The Westchester County Association (WCA) vocally opposed passage of the federal government's recent budget bill. In a series of opinion pieces, including one published in *Crains*, I laid out its impact on our region's healthcare sector. [Crains Healthcare oped](#). Through our standing Healthcare Consortium, we have been meeting regularly with each of the region's hospital systems and major providers to chart a path forward.

The GOP's "One Big Beautiful Bill" is a serious threat to New York's healthcare system. According to analysis from the NYS DOH, hospitals in our region face a potential increase of approximately \$168 million in uncompensated care due to planned cuts in Essential Plan and Medicaid cuts. The total potential impact to our region from these cuts may total close to \$1 billion. Moreover, the bill shifts billions of dollars in coverage costs from the federal government to the state. While the bill's full impact is not yet clear, several actions—some non-budgetary—can be taken by the state legislature to help ease its most damaging aspects. At a time when our regional hospitals and other healthcare providers are grappling with expanding challenges, we ask you to provide some assistance to the healthcare sector in our region by supporting common sense reforms and targeted workforce funding.

Provide Workforce Flexibility

Granting providers greater flexibility in workforce utilization can significantly reduce overtime and recruitment costs. We recommend the following changes:

- **Authorize Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)** to administer anesthesia without physician supervision.
- **Allow Nurse Assistants (NAs)** in health centers to administer vaccines, as is permitted in private physician offices and pharmacies.
- **Authorize New York State to Join the Physician and Nurse Licensure Compacts**, as nearly all other states have done. Launch a pilot program in underserved communities and expand statewide when proven successful. This goal could have been advanced through **Bill S.8341A/A8472B**, if not for the inclusion of a "poison pill" provision requiring a three-year in-state practice. Strip the offending provision and reintroduce the legislation.

Provide Regulatory Relief

Excessive regulations consume valuable staff time that could otherwise be spent on patient care. We were pleased to see the **Certificate of Need (CON)** project cost threshold raised from \$30 million to \$60 million.

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However, other regulatory burdens—such as the requirement for a “Dear Administrator Letter” for even minor service changes—remain overly complex and time-consuming. Hospital leaders should be given the flexibility to make necessary operational changes without being subject to undue restrictions.

Fund Targeted Healthcare Workforce Initiatives

The healthcare industry throughout Westchester and the Hudson Valley continues to face staffing shortages in critical roles. In response, we have surveyed providers and developed targeted solutions. Modest investments of approximately \$3 million spread over the next three years in each of the following programs will deliver substantial benefits to healthcare employers as well as the regional economy:

- **Healthcare Talent Pipeline Program (HTPP):** The HTPP is a program created by the WCA to train and place job seekers into roles such as CNA, CMA, and MAA with regional providers. With funding made available through ARPA over the past three years, over **250 individuals** have been hired through the HTPP with an annual return on program investment (job growth, salaries, economic impact) of greater than 20 to 1. However, ARPA funding for this highly successful program is set to expire.
- **Nurse Educator Pilot Program:** As the nursing workforce ages, the need for Registered Nurses continues to grow. The key barrier to training new nurses is the shortage of nurse educators—primarily due to the wage gap between clinicians and faculty. In addition to financing the HTPP, the WCA proposes a **three-year, Westchester-based pilot** to offer wage subsidies and cover training costs for nurse educators at our top flight nursing schools to teach the next generation of nurses for our Hudson Valley hospitals.

Prioritize Funding for Safety Net Providers

Although the full extent of federal cuts remains uncertain, a significant reduction in Medicaid payments is expected. One of the most immediate impacts will stem from changes to the Essential Plan, which will require the State to absorb costs for many recipients—particularly undocumented immigrants—who are often served by community health centers. These centers provide essential care that helps prevent costly hospital and emergency department visits. Funding for these safety net providers must be prioritized.

Modify the MTA Payroll Mobility Tax

- Support exempting nonprofit hospitals and healthcare providers from the MTA Payroll Mobility Tax. Prior to July 2025, the MTA payroll tax was .34% for our region, or approximately \$15.6 million to our regional hospitals. As of July 2025, the rate increases to .635%, resulting in an aggregate tax impact of \$29.3 million.

We look forward to discussing these proposals prior to the onset of the State budget process and thank you for your ongoing support of our region’s healthcare sector.

Very truly yours,



Michael N. Romita
President & CEO
Westchester County Association