February 20, 2020

**RE: Funding for SUNY Hospitals and Roswell Park Cancer Institute**

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 Cuomo’s Executive Budget which would again provide no cash subsidy for SUNY’s three teaching hospitals and reduce the subsidy for Roswell Park by $13.3 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) has been in decline. A subsidy that was once $153 million was eliminated last year. These facilities will be forced to make cuts, even as their services to all that need medical attention, regardless of health insurance, has been on the rise. This is especially true for SUNY Downstate.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute is in a similar situation, facing state funding that is on the decline while trying to maintain a 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 as they both 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 the health care 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 $87 Million** and **restore the $13.3 million proposed cut to the Roswell Park subsidy**. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_