



March 28, 2019

Dear Chairperson Stavisky and Chairperson Glick:

We are writing to ask for your help in the waning hours of the budget negotiations regarding our need to have a restoration of the \$78.6M in operating aid for the three SUNY teaching hospitals.

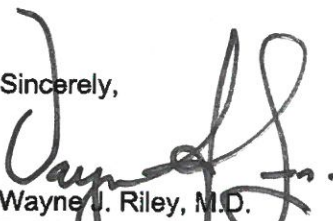
We run major safety net hospitals that provide quality healthcare to the poorest of our state's residents. It is imperative that this funding be restored or we will finish the year in deficit, seriously jeopardizing our ability to continue providing vital services to the most vulnerable in our communities and training new physicians to practice across New York state.

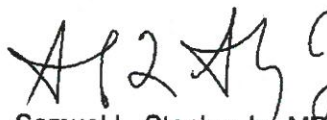
Out of the \$78.6M, Stony Brook Hospital normally receives around \$34M; Downstate Medical Center \$20M; and Upstate Medical Center \$24M. Currently, the Assembly one-house budget includes language that will absorb capital debt service moving forward, which will free up \$14M for Stony Brook, \$8.4M for Downstate and \$22M for Upstate. We urge this provision be included in the enacted 2019-2020 State Budget.


However, while helpful, covering our annual debt service would not fully cover the gap in operating aid funding. So in addition to the above, we ask that the State continue to provide on an annual basis \$50 million per hospital of additional debt capacity, for which the State pays the debt service.

Once again, we implore the Higher Education Joint Budget Conference Committee to seriously consider this request to maintain quality health care at the state's three teaching hospitals.

Sincerely,


Wayne J. Riley, M.D.
President
Downstate Medical Center


Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD
President
Stony Brook University


Mantosh Dewan, MD,
Interim President
Upstate Medical Center