

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As the April 1 budget deadline draws near, we write to you today with an urgent request to work with legislative leaders to allocate \$450 million toward SUNY Upstate University Hospital's much-needed expansion project. In the decades to come, this investment will further this essential institution's long history of high-quality care for the millions who rely on it.

We recognize and thank you for proposing a \$200 million investment to triage the pressing need to grow Upstate's emergency department. This investment would be a significant down payment that supports the Central New York community, but there is every reason to go further this year. As you saw firsthand when you visited Upstate in January, while the hospital's dedicated medical and professional staff provide the highest possible levels of patient care and services, over-crowding of the current emergency department must be addressed as soon as possible.

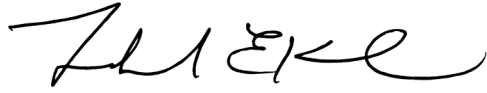
It's not merely that Upstate needs a new emergency department, however. As the only Level 1 trauma center for 14 counties, children's hospital for 22 counties, burn unit for 37 counties, and poison center for 54 counties — everything north of Westchester — Upstate needs this added funding so it can grow to better serve the totality of the community that relies on its services. To holistically plan for that growth, Upstate needs a clear idea of how it will be able to access the additional \$250 million required for this transformational expansion project.

Just as we have long-term certainty about the maximum amount of financing available for other generational projects in this region, it's critical that Central New Yorkers — and all upstaters — have long-term certainty that Upstate's expansion will be fully financed in the years ahead. To put it simply, you can deliver that certainty with a full \$450 million appropriation in the new state budget.

Strong investments in community healthcare are strong investments in working people, from the local laborers who are leading progress on the biggest projects in state history to the essential workers who tirelessly and selflessly dedicate themselves to caring for their neighbors. \$450 million is the strongest possible investment you can make in high-quality care for our members and the people they serve.

We look forward to our continued work to ensure New Yorkers thrive through labor's partnership with your administration.

Sincerely,



Frederick E. Kowal, PhD
President, United University Professions

Mary E Sullivan

Mary E. Sullivan
President, CSEA



Wayne Spence
President, PEF



Gregory Lancette
President, Central & Northern New York
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