



DANIEL P. MCCOY  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 200  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2021  
(518) 447-7040 - FAX (518) 447-5589  
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

CHRISTINE C. QUINN, ESQ.  
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 10, 2012

Dear Albany County Nursing Home Employee,

I learned firsthand the importance of the Albany County Nursing Home when my father became a resident. For nearly a year, I was a frequent visitor and was continually impressed at the care and commitment of the staff. This experience, coupled with my mom's work as a nurse's aide for 30 years and my aunt's work with the Little Sisters of the Poor for nearly 70 years, I have shaped my opinion on the need to preserve a health safety net for our residents.

When I first became a County Legislator, and then Chairman of the Legislature, I was a vocal advocate for preserving the critical services provided by the Albany County Nursing Home. When the County's budget started facing financial shortfalls, some immediately called for closure of the Nursing Home. I fought each year to keep it open and pushed for alternatives to be considered.

I am writing to let you know firsthand of the work we are doing. We have signed a Letter of Intent to negotiate with Upstate Services Group. Under this agreement, Upstate Services Group would operate the Albany County Nursing Home under a ten-year lease agreement, with a renewable five-year option. Upstate Services Group has agreed to maintain the same admission standards that exist now, and to work with the existing staff and the labor union that represents them.

While the staff at the Nursing Home has done an excellent job, Albany County's management of the facility combined with reimbursement levels that fail to cover operating costs, withdrawal of IGT payments, and a current operating deficit of \$12 million per year is not sustainable. In order to ensure the long-term viability of the Nursing Home, we need to work with Upstate Services Group.

Upstate Services Group is a company with a positive track record around New York State they have worked with nursing homes similar to Albany County's. They currently operate eleven facilities with 1,600 total beds throughout New York State. We share the same goals and I am excited to have this opportunity to work with them.

I have reviewed all the options, and am confident that this agreement will do three things:

- 1.) Protect seniors and those in need by providing a safety net,
- 2.) Protect taxpayers by saving close to \$60 million over the next five years and
- 3.) Take responsibility to make a decision, after years of debate and controversy, which is well thought out, serves the needs of our residents and is fair to all Albany County citizens.

I thank you for your understanding as we face this transition and implement a plan that ensures a brighter future.

Warm Regards,

Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive