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**NYS PRIMARY CARE COALITION EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDICAID REDESIGN TEAM**

February 24, 2011 (NEW YORK, NY) - The [New York State Primary Care Coalition](#) commends the work of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) and is extremely encouraged by the outcomes that will enhance primary care. Not only will these recommendations greatly reduce healthcare spending, they will lead to better quality healthcare for the patients who need it most. What is more, with its recommendations, the Team has taken a significant step forward in the implementation of health care reform.

We recognize that not everyone may agree on all of the proposals, that some of these changes will indeed be painful and difficult, and that there are other good ideas yet to be explored. This is a bold plan with the potential to truly right-size New York's expensive, inefficient healthcare system. The plan recognizes that primary and preventive care is critical to reforming New York's healthcare system, and proposes the right kinds of initiatives to make the system work, including:

- Expanding access to patient-centered medical homes to one million New Yorkers.
- Creating an office of Patient-Centered Primary Care Initiatives.
- Providing operational resources to assist the merger and restructuring of safety net facilities, which is one of several critical elements to preserve and strengthen primary care capacity.
- Providing payment incentives to support telemedicine.
- Taking steps to reform the broken medical liability system.

New York could have chosen a different path - one that sought draconian cuts, pushed people out of Medicaid coverage, and eliminated essential services. Instead, unlike many states facing serious budget concerns, New York is choosing to protect its most vulnerable populations, by refusing to eliminate benefits or reduce eligibility.

The Medicaid Redesign Team has made the right choices that focus on primary care - to bring healthcare decisions closer to patients and their providers; incentivize the right care at the right time in the right setting; and make New York's Medicaid program the model for compassion, quality and efficiency we know it can be. We look forward to working with the MRT, the Legislature, Governor Cuomo and his Administration to help implement these important reforms.

About the Primary Care Coalition: Founded in 2006, the Primary Care Coalition's mission is to expand quality primary care in New York State. It is currently comprised of the Community Health Care Association of New York State; the Primary Care Development Corporation; the New York State Area Health Education Center System; the American College of Physicians, New York Chapter; and the New York State Academy of Family Physicians. For more information please visit www.nyprimarycarehome.org