



BROOKLYN NEEDS DOWNSTATE



STOP SUNY'S CLOSURE PLAN



SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. announced a plan Jan. 16 to make drastic changes in the structure and operation of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University. SUNY's plan would relegate this safety net hospital to a wing in Kings County Hospital Center. Other health care services performed at Downstate would be farmed out to other neighboring hospitals.

This plan will unequivocally result in the closure of SUNY Downstate.

**IF THERE IS NO BUILDING,
THERE IS NO HOSPITAL!**

SUNY is calling its vision for SUNY Downstate a "transformation." Nothing could be further from the truth. This ill-conceived plan:

- » Is poor public policy, which will reduce health care in Brooklyn, undermine the hospital's central mission and harm the Brooklyn communities it serves. Central Brooklyn's residents need more quality health care, not less.
- » Will result in the loss of desperately needed health care professionals in Central Brooklyn.
- » Will negatively impact medical education and financially harm Downstate's medical school. Clinical faculty have emphatically attested to these facts. Downstate's medical school provides a pipeline of doctors and medical professionals to New York City hospitals.
- » Will dramatically increase emergency department wait times. Downstate has the lowest wait time in Brooklyn, while Kings County has one of the highest.

As a public teaching hospital, SUNY Downstate treats all patients who walk through its doors. Downstate's patients:

- » Are predominantly people of color, low income, uninsured, underinsured, undocumented and at-risk individuals.

» The vast majority rely on Medicaid for insurance. Despite this, the hospital was left out of the state's plan to send up to \$6 billion in federal Section 1115 waiver funding to bail out cash-strapped hospitals. SUNY Downstate, a state hospital, is not getting a dollar of this funding. In fact, out of 143 hospitals in New York State, SUNY Downstate ranks first for Medicaid revenue as a share of net patient revenue. (Source: HCRIS)

» Have limited access to affordable health care.

» Are more prone to suffer from serious disease and face higher morbidity rates than other patients across our city and state.

**BROOKLYN NEEDS SUNY DOWNSTATE
THE HOSPITAL MUST REMAIN OPEN
IN ITS CURRENT SPACE**

Instead of closing SUNY Downstate, this safety net hospital could be a viable, vital health care center that serves the unique needs of Brooklyn and New York City by:

- » Passing S.6956 (Myrie) / A.7546 (Cunningham), which requires the Commissioner of Health to develop a sustainability plan for Downstate.
- » Providing a state capital investment to upgrade the facility to provide the specialized health care services the Brooklyn community needs and deserves. The state could be a national example for addressing maternal morbidity through the establishment of a Maternal and Childcare Services Center at Downstate. The hospital is designated as a Regional Perinatal Center by the state Department of Health.
- » Specializing in other quality services needed in Brooklyn, such as treating heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and autism, among others.
- » Providing short-term state operating aid to allow the hospital to function while it is upgraded.

The State of New York is in the best position to provide health care to the vulnerable central Brooklyn population through its own hospital, SUNY Downstate.

It should not abandon its obligation to this hospital and the people of Central Brooklyn!

