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## NYSACHO PRESIDENT LINDA BEERS TESTIFIES ON NYSACHO'S 2025-26 STATE BUDGET PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

(Albany, New York) The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) President Linda Beers, MPH, today testified before the joint legislative hearing on the public health components of the 2025-26 Executive Budget proposal.

Ms. Beers, who also serves as Essex County Director of Public Health, shared with lawmakers' priorities related to workforce shortages, Article 6 funding (state aid contributing to the delivery of core public health services), lead poisoning prevention, clean drinking water, tick-borne disease prevention, maternal and child health, and the Early Intervention program, among many others public health initiatives requiring state support.

NYSACHO's full budget testimony can be found at <a href="https://nysacho.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/02/NYSACHO-Testimony-2025-Budget-FINAL.pdf">https://nysacho.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/02/NYSACHO-Testimony-2025-Budget-FINAL.pdf</a>.

Ms. Beers also testified to the increased sense of uncertainty associated with the recent federal election, telling lawmakers: "What has changed, however, is the context of our efforts. As you know, transitions in leadership at any level often bring uncertainty, and public health is no exception. That sense of uncertainty for public health has rarely been more profound than it is today. So we look to you, our state leaders and partners, to be a reliable, steady hand that ensures our public health infrastructure is supported, sustainable, and prioritized."

"We ask you to maintain a steadfast focus on public health, even as change and uncertainty challenge us," Ms. Beers testified.