

Hospital Readout

by Steven Kelley,
CHE President and CEO, Ellenville Regional Hospital

Governor George Pataki's proposed health care taxes and cuts would devastate our health care system. Of the \$3.1 billion in cuts and taxes he has proposed, about \$1.7 billion would affect hospitals, nursing homes, and home care providers, including those in our community.

The impact to *Ellenville Regional Hospital* would be roughly \$100,000, which includes the re-establishment of a "sick" tax and elimination of the 2005 Medicaid trend factor, for the fiscal year 2005-2006. This is a significant impact to a financially recovering facility.

I understand that these are difficult economic times for everyone and sacrifices have to be made. However, health care providers have already endured years of funding cuts and cannot withstand any more. Past cuts and inadequate funding from both government and private payers have placed health care on the brink of financial disaster. Preserving funding for health care will save us from losing health care jobs, services, and even hospitals, nursing homes, and home care providers right here in our community.

Health care taxes and cuts will limit everyone's access to critical health care services. More people will join the ranks of the uninsured, and those who are lucky enough to have insurance will experience an increase in their premiums.

New York's health care system is among the finest in the country. If we are to maintain that reputation and enjoy the benefits of quality health care that come with it, we cannot jeopardize health care providers' ability to provide the best care by taxing them and cutting their reimbursement for services provided. I urge the Governor to recognize that his proposal would put health care providers in a precarious position and reverse his course of action. ✨

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ERH's Gift Shop

by Mary Wolf

You are cordially invited to visit the *Gift Shop* in the *Ellenville Regional Hospital*. It is located right off the lobby. What a treat you will have!

When you enter the shop you will first notice how much merchandise is tastefully displayed in a small room. There is much to see. There are tables, shelves, and cases filled with the most delightful gifts for all ages.

For babies, we have silver banks, fluffy and cuddly animals, and puzzles. For children, there are toy cars, trucks, stuffed animals, dolls, and puzzles. For the young and the young at heart, there are a variety of dolls, colorfully dressed and some will even sing for you. What a lovely and thoughtful gift for a little girl. When children come to the shop, you can hear them exclaim, "Ooooh, Mom, look at the dolls."

If you are planning a gift for Mother's Day, just visit our shop and you will probably see just the right gift. Lovely jewelry is displayed on and in a glass case. Of course, this is not Tiffany's, but our gems are bright and shiny and they sparkle. There are bracelets, necklaces, earrings, rings, and pins. If jewelry is not in your plans, there is a dainty "Red Hat" scarf with coordinated accessories: pins, bracelets, and earrings. This is a very popular item. How about a tote bag that is decorated with a painting by Monet, with a matching umbrella?

Now for Dad! There are watches, pocketknives, rings, decorative chains, and playing cards. How about a box of miniature tools, a tape dispenser, or an unusual paper-weight for his desk?

If you are a cat lover, you may like to see some cat vases, figurines, plates, salt and pepper shakers, and calico cats. Have your pick.

To add color or interest to a room in your home you may be interested in our collection of collector plates. And the price is right. The shop also carries some religious items: crosses, angel pins, and figurines, and rosaries that are blessed.

The *Gift Shop* also carries greeting cards. There are birthday, get well, sympathy, thank-you, congratulations, etc. All are moderately-priced and are very attractive. The *Shawangunk Garden Club* members made some lovely and creative gift cards and bookmarks for us.

One of the most popular items sold is *candy*. We have quite a nice variety of candies and chips that are just the right size for quick pick-me-ups. We even carry sugar-free candy.

In front of the entrance to the *Gift Shop* there are two movable bookcases. One carries soft-covered books that sell for 50 cents. Some of the authors are well known, such as Nora Roberts, Amy Tan, and Pat Conroy. The other bookcase contains hard-covered books. What a steal they are for just a buck. Most of them are practically new. Some of the authors are Erich Segal, Irving Stone, Jean M. Auel, and Lillian J. Braun. Most of the books are novels. All books are donated. We even have bookends of "The Thinker" which will nicely hold your books.

Now that you have had a peek at our *Gift Shop*, we hope that you will accept our invitation and come to visit. The *Shop* is open from **9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** every day except Saturday and Sunday. It is manned by volunteers under the leadership of Adaline Loucks whose expertise makes this shop so successful. She is ably assisted by Frances Pressman and Carolyn Kuhlmann. We hope to see you soon.

P.S. Every cent of the profit goes to the *Hospital*. ✨