

A One-Two Punch To Hospitals: The Proposed Federal and State Budgets

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Each day, over 250 people visit the emergency room at Woodhull Medical Center in Brooklyn. And each day the hospital loses more than \$75,000 treating them -- adding up to more than \$27 million a year. If Governor George Pataki and President George W. Bush have their way with the state and federal budgets, Woodhull will be losing even more -- and it and other New York hospitals might be sent over the edge.

Pataki's proposed budget for New York State, released in January, contains sharp cuts for Medicaid. New York's program is the country's largest, and Pataki argues that costs must be brought under control. His proposals to do so, however, will cost New York City hospitals \$341 million next year, according to the Healthcare Association of New York State, a trade association for health care providers. The loss for Woodhull alone could be \$15 million (on top of the \$27 million.) The association says these costs would be devastating to a struggling industry in which