

**STATEMENT BY ROGER CLAYMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR
TO THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
ON THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

The Long Island Federation of Labor is here today to express our concern with the Berger Commission recommendations, particularly those related to the SUNY Hospitals.

We are very much opposed to the privatization of the SUNY Hospitals. This proposal threatens the health and well being of the state's most indigent patients while offering no guarantees of reduced costs and increased efficiency.

Privatization will have a devastating effect on the lives of the staff who make these facilities run. At risk are state jobs, pensions and health care earned over many years of service. Also, unionized jobs in construction have been in place for many years.

Stony Brook is a major employer on Long Island, as are the other SUNY Hospitals in other areas of the State. We should consider carefully the financial impact on our communities before reaching conclusions which may not advance the stated goals of updating health care delivery in The State.