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**AMBULATORY CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ARE FRONT AND CENTER
IN THE NEW STATE BUDGET**

New York, NY – The upcoming State budget continues and improves upon the progress made in earlier budgets for women across New York State. “Our new Governor, David Patterson, and the New York State Legislators are to be commended for moving our State forward in the provision of community-based ambulatory care that is prevention-oriented and patient-centered,” said Ellen Rautenberg, President & CEO of Public Health Solutions, in remarks issued today.

In addition to changes that will allow significantly more of the State’s children to receive public health insurance, the new State budget preserves and expands needed funds for women’s health, including areas that Public Health Solutions sees as critical:

- Funding to expand the hours that family planning clinics are open to serve their neighborhoods;
- Funding to provide HPV vaccine to women ages 19-26, preventing cervical cancer;
- Funding for the provision of Emergency Contraception, reducing unintended pregnancies;
- Funding for comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sex education, reducing adolescent pregnancy.

“The new State budget moves us forward in increasing the number of those with insurance and, hence, access to care in NYS,” said Rautenberg. “Strengthening the ambulatory care system, the part of a complex health care system where patients are able to receive care that is prevention-focused, is in all our best interests,” she continued. “In a difficult budget year, that the policymakers in Albany chose to make the health of women and families a priority is gratifying to all of us who care about community health.”

Public Health Solutions is a nonprofit organization that develops, implements and advocates dynamic solutions to prevent disease and improve community health. Public Health Solutions conducts comprehensive research providing insight on public health issues, creates and manages community health programs, and provides services to organizations to address public health challenges. The organization was formerly known as Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc.