

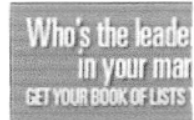


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BUSINESS PULSE SURVEY: Will the Wall Street Journal become "fair and balanced?"

House approves \$28M for local hospitals

The Business Review (Albany) - 10:31 AM EDT Thursday, August 2, 2007

Albany, N.Y., area hospitals stand to gain a total of \$28 million a year under legislation passed by the **U.S. House of Representatives**.

The Child Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 3162) adjusts the Medicare wage index for hospitals in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer counties. The Medicare wage index is a complicated formula that determines how much the government pays for care. The index for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA, at 86 cents on the dollar, is one of the lowest in the nation.

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Anne Cerami
2007 1 MA THURSDAY

"For a number of years, the Medicare program has underpaid hospitals in our area for the wages they pay their employees," said Congressman Michael McNulty (D-Green Island). He said this inequity has made it difficult for hospitals in the region to recruit and retain nurses and other health care professionals.

Albany Medical Center would gain the most, with an estimated \$9 million a year more in Medicare reimbursement. St. Peter's Hospital in Albany could see a \$7.7 million increase. Other projected increases include \$4.1 million for Northeast Health, parent to **Albany Memorial Hospital, Samaritan Hospital** in Troy, N.Y., and **Sunnyview**

Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady; \$3.5 million for **Ellis Hospital** in Schenectady; \$2.2 million for Seton Health, parent to St. Mary's Hospital in Troy; and \$1.5 million for St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady.

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