

October 2, 2026

To the Editor:

“Long Island hospitals took \$4.8 billion in property value off tax rolls” failed to include the offsetting benefits to the region of expanded outpatient services. Hospitals benefit, not detract from, the local economy, including the municipal tax base.

There is a multiplier effect to health system investments: the goods and services purchased for the provision of care, local businesses patronized near care locations, and the economic benefits of supporting 129,000 local jobs, to name a few. The Healthcare Association of New York State [estimates](#) that hospitals generated \$29.4 billion in economic activity and \$4.8 billion in tax dollars for the region in 2025 – an increase of more than 60 percent over the past decade.

It is true that more care and the economic activity it generates are now being provided in outpatient settings. In this densely populated region, it’s not possible to expand every hospital campus to meet the growing care needs of Long Islanders. It’s also more cost effective to shift care to outpatient settings as advances in treatment and technology have made it safe to do so.

As nonprofit institutions, hospitals are obligated to meet these needs, which often requires increasing capacity and accessibility. Non-hospital providers at the same sites may pay property taxes but would not have the same obligations to treat Medicare, Medicaid and uninsured patients, nor are they obligated to provide the services most needed by residents.

I particularly take issue with the unsupported statement by Elizabeth Plummer that there is “lots of evidence” that hospitals don’t provide enough charity care to justify their nonprofit status. In addition to being a federal requirement, providing financial assistance is both a foundation of hospitals’ missions and state law, which is among the most robust in the nation. Hospitals also benefit their communities by investing in research, training clinicians, subsidizing Medicare and Medicaid underpayments and sponsoring community programs. Over the same decade reviewed for this article, Long Island hospitals’ community benefit spending doubled, despite a sharp decline in uninsured residents.

Nonprofit hospitals and health systems take very seriously their obligations to provide cutting-edge care, increase accessibility and care for the uninsured, while continuing to serve as a bedrock of Long Island’s economy.

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