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STATEMENT BY KATE BRESLIN, PRESIDENT OF THE SCHUYLER CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY, REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH

The Schuyler Center works hard to ensure that policymakers in New York understand that oral health is a critical component of overall health in individuals of every age.

The comments of Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and his spokeswoman, unfortunately, undermine our efforts.

In this regard, Mr. Astorino's belief that people can easily do without dentures is misinformed and callous. And, his spokeswoman's suggestion that those comments were "a joke" adds insult to injury.

If Mr. Astorino looked into the matter further, he would find solid scientific evidence supporting Medicaid coverage for dentures and other dental health care. This coverage actually helps lower health care spending over the long run.

We urge Mr. Astorino to more carefully consider his comments and that of his spokeswoman in this important health policy area.

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