



Hospitals Applaud Governor DeSantis' Budget Protection for Critical Care Fund

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Florida's Critical Care Hospitals, included in the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida (SNHAF), released the following statement today, following Governor Ron DeSantis' release of a proposed budget for the upcoming 2020 legislative session:

SNHAF Chief Executive Officer Justin Senior said, "We applaud the Governor's protection of the Critical Care Fund in his budget proposal. He is truly putting the best interests of patients first. This funding goes to ensure the poorest in our communities, mostly children, receive the very best care when they suffer from complex medical conditions like pediatric cancers or burns. The Governor's protection of this funding means state dollars are truly following the patient because only certain hospitals in our state are able to handle a high volume of complex pediatric care and still have the very best outcomes.

"Additionally, we were excited to see the Governor propose a program using nationally recognized quality ratings for top quality hospital outcomes and we look forward to learning more as it develops."

Lindy Kennedy, SNHAF President, said, "Gov. DeSantis' proposed budget also reaffirms his administration's commitment to increase Floridians' access to physicians by protecting Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding.

"Our Critical Care Hospitals not only provide the best access to care in Florida, we also boast the highest quality with the best outcomes for patients. The US News and World Report this year ranked the majority of our members as the 'best' in Florida. Additionally, nearly half of Florida's 5-Star Hospitals, as recognized by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, are our critical care hospitals. The Governor's budget proposal means our members can continue to treat the most complex medical cases and give patients some of the very best care in the state."

CONTACT: Melissa Stone, (225)-772-3059

Justin Senior, (850)-528-9159

Lindy Kennedy, (850)-445-2740

###