



Contacts:
 Lindy Kennedy
 Executive Vice-President
 Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida
 (850) 201-2096
lindy@snhaf.net

Susan Thurston
 Hill+Knowlton Strategies
 (813) 775-6229
susan.thurston@hkstrategies.com

Teaching Hospitals

Broward Health

Jackson Health System

Mount Sinai
 Medical Center

Orlando Health

UF Health Shands Hospital

UF Health Jacksonville

Tampa General Hospital

Public Hospitals

Halifax Health

Lee Health

Memorial Healthcare System

Sarasota Memorial
 Health Care System

Children's Hospitals

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Regional Perinatal Intensive
 Care Center

Sacred Heart Health System

Anthony Carvalho

President

For Immediate Release

**Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida Applauds House
 for Putting Patients Before Profits in 2018-19 Budget Proposal**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Feb. 7, 2018) - The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida today applauded the House for proposing a 2018-19 budget that puts patients before profits by maintaining funding levels for hospitals that provide a large percentage of the care delivered to the state's poor and uninsured.

Safety Net hospitals thanked Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran and the House leadership team for understanding the value that safety net hospitals provide to their communities and the importance of maintaining the highest standards of care.

"We are extremely grateful to the House for making Florida's homegrown safety net hospitals a priority and leaving intact enhanced payments to hospitals serving large numbers of Medicaid patients," said Lindy Kennedy, executive vice-president of the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida. "We urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and support a budget plan that best protects Florida's most vulnerable citizens - low-income elderly, blind, disabled, pregnant women, fragile newborns and sick children."

Safety Net hospitals are already challenged to find ways to recoup the losses imposed last legislative session when the Florida Legislature cut hospitals \$651 million, leaving them 40 cents in the red for every dollar of Medicaid hospital care provided. Additional cuts or shifting of recurring funding to hospitals serving fewer Medicaid patients would severely jeopardize safety net hospitals' ability to provide care to all Floridians, regardless of their ability to pay. Eliminating the enhanced payments to hospitals serving large Medicaid patient populations would be especially detrimental to Florida's children's and teaching hospitals.

"Safety Net hospitals put patients before profits by reinvesting revenue earned back into jobs, innovation, technology, research and local prevention projects, which benefit Florida's most vulnerable citizens," Kennedy said. "Enhanced Medicaid reimbursement to high Medicaid hospitals is an investment in our state and our communities."

In a press availability last week, Rep. Carlos Trujillo, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said House leaders stand committed to helping safety net hospitals fulfill their mission of caring for the state's most vulnerable citizens.

“Our commitment will continue to be to the Safety Nets, first and foremost,” Trujillo said. “They’re essential to the well-being of our residents. As for some of the for-profits, we’re much less sympathetic.”

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The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida is a 14-member coalition of teaching, public, children’s and regional perinatal intensive care hospitals that together make up only 10 percent of the state’s hospitals, yet provide the majority of the state’s highly specialized medical care, train tomorrow’s doctors, and provide almost half of the Medicaid and charity care.