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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 Hospitals Urge Constitution Revision Commission to Reject Proposal to Eliminate Planning Process for New Hospitals

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 13, 2018) – Florida’s top teaching, public, and children’s hospitals today urged the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) to reject a proposal to eliminate the state’s strategic planning process for new hospitals, warning it would hurt hospitals that provide the most highly specialized medical care and train our future doctors.

“Proposal 54 would be extremely detrimental to safety net hospitals caring for the state’s neediest patients with critical, complex needs,” said Lindy Kennedy, executive vice president of the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida. “With fewer commercially insured patients to help cover the costs of caring for the poor and uninsured, hospitals would be forced to cut vital programs and services that benefit all Floridians, such as graduate medical education, trauma, burn, and neonatal care.”

Speaking during a CRC public hearing in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, Kennedy said the proposal to repeal certificate of need (CON) does not belong in the state Constitution. “Legislative efforts to repeal certificate of need have failed because the Florida Legislature understands it jeopardizes our hospitals’ ability to provide high-quality care to all patients, regardless of their income.

“Hospitals shouldn’t have to choose between maintaining a trauma center or expanding a residency program, but that’s just what would happen if you eliminate CON,” Kennedy said. “We urge the Commission to think about the importance of our hospitals in their communities and maintain the state’s strategic planning process for new health care facilities.”

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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.