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Teaching Hospitals

Broward Health

Jackson Health System

Mount Sinai Medical Center

Orlando Health

UF Health Shands Hospital

UF Health Jacksonville

Tampa General Hospital

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SAFETY NET HOSPITALS APPLAUD FLORIDA SENATE’S APPROVAL OF BUDGET PLAN THAT ADDRESSES LIP FUNDING, HEALTHCARE EXPANSION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 1, 2015 - Florida’s safety net hospitals praised the Florida Senate for passing a state budget today that includes a sound healthcare model for protecting Low-Income Pool (LIP) reimbursements to hospitals paired with a fiscally responsible plan for insuring more than 800,000 poor, uninsured citizens caught in Florida’s healthcare coverage gap.

Public Hospitals

Halifax Health

Lee Memorial Health System

Memorial Healthcare System

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System

The Senate budget plan recognizes that "the Medicaid and primary care services made possible by the LIP supplemental funding program provide a foundation for ACA coverage expansion, and this is not a one or the other situation," said Tony Carvalho, president of the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida (SNHAF), which represents the state’s top public, teaching and children’s hospitals. "Florida needs both programs."

Even after full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, an Urban Institute study in 2012 estimated Florida would still have approximately \$1.6 billion in uncompensated care.

"Low-income Floridians need the access to health care that insurance coverage can provide. And the providers of their health care need the supplemental funding support, because the Medicaid program covers less than half the cost of providing the care," Carvalho said.

Children’s Hospitals

All Children’s Hospital

Miami Children’s Hospital

SNHAF officials, in reacting to the Senate’s unanimous, bipartisan vote of its \$80.4 billion budget, applauded the Senate for addressing the state’s critical healthcare challenges and boldly approving a budget that increases access to quality healthcare for hundreds of thousands of Floridians, while also protecting Florida’s fragile healthcare safety net.

Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center

Sacred Heart Health System

"We are hopeful that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services views the Senate’s actions as a positive sign that Florida leaders are interested in reaching a collaborative agreement on future supplemental payments for safety net hospitals, and that this will help lead to a new funding model before the current LIP program expires on June 30," Carvalho said.

Anthony Carvalho

President

The Senate budget would extend healthcare insurance coverage to nearly one million low-income residents who earn too much to qualify for Florida’s Medicaid program but not enough to qualify for federally subsidized health insurance. The Florida Health Insurance Affordability Exchange program, known as FHIX, would provide coverage through private health insurance plans and require participants to pay small monthly premiums and meet work and job training requirements.

A Florida-driven, free market-based solution, FHI has received strong support among large and small businesses, consumer health advocates and hospital officials. Over the next eight years, SNHAF estimates that expanding healthcare coverage would result in \$6.4 billion in state budget savings as a result of shifting Florida's optionally funded programs, such as Medically Needy and substance and mental health programs, to federally funded programs.

"This plan makes good business sense, infuses \$51 billion into the state's healthcare economy and gives low-income residents access to essential health coverage they need," Carvalho said. "It will save the state money and ensure that Florida gets back the federal tax dollars its citizens have already sent to Washington."

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The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida advocates on behalf its 14 member public, teaching, children's and regional perinatal intensive care hospitals to ensure they have the resources to provide accessible, high quality healthcare for all Floridians, regardless of their ability to pay.