



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Private Safety-Net Hospitals Urge Continued Vigilance Against Ongoing ACA Reform Proposals Resulting in Skyrocketing Uninsured, Collapse of the Individual Market and Massive Job Losses**

SACRAMENTO – Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH), representing California’s community safety-net hospitals that provide one-third of all Medi-Cal inpatient care, urged continued vigilance and strong opposition to health care reform proposals such as the stalled U.S. Senate Graham-Cassidy bill, which would leave 7.5 million more Californians uninsured and drastically cut the state’s Medi-Cal program and health care safety net.

“Although it appears that the Graham-Cassidy proposal will not move forward at this time, its proponents have expressed their commitment to continue efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, which – in the absence of a bipartisan collaboration – would be damaging for communities throughout California, said Catherine Douglas, PEACH President and CEO. “The Graham-Cassidy proposal targets California with the largest cuts, resulting in \$139 billion in Medi-Cal reductions, 550,000 job losses in the next 10 years, and the potential collapse of California’s individual insurance market as soon as 2021.”

“These massive losses to California’s health care system for the poor and elderly, and destabilization of the safety-net providers who provide life-saving services to entire communities statewide, combined with the damaging effect on the individual health insurance market, threaten the economic stability and quality of life of all Californians,” continued Douglas.

“PEACH urges all of California’s congressional representatives to oppose any proposals, such as the Graham-Cassidy plan, that would jeopardize the health and economic well-being of our entire state – and especially our most vulnerable communities and the safety-net providers who serve them,” said Douglas.

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*Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH) is the statewide network of private, community safety-net hospitals in California. PEACH hospitals serve communities with some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the state – with disproportionate numbers of low-income, low-income elderly, and uninsured patients. On average, California’s community safety-net hospitals serve a patient base that is 87 percent insured by Medicaid and Medicare or is uninsured. California’s community safety-net hospitals provide more care to Medi-Cal patients and seniors, as well as more emergency room services and Medi-Cal mental health inpatient care than any other California safety-net hospital sector.*