



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Community Safety-Net Hospitals Greatly Concerned about Harmful Impact of
American Health Care Act on Californians**

SACRAMENTO – Representing California’s community safety-net hospital providers that provide one-third of Medi-Cal inpatient care statewide, Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH), expressed great concern and disappointment about the House of Representatives’ passage of the American Health Care Act (H.R. 277) today. In its current form, the AHCA could destabilize California’s health care safety net and undercut access to meaningful and cost-effective health coverage for 5.5 million newly insured Californians.

“An estimated three million Californians could lose coverage under the AHCA – hitting hardest our most vulnerable communities and the safety-net providers that are dedicated to serving them,” said Catherine Douglas, PEACH president and CEO.

Under the AHCA Medicaid reductions, California is estimated to face \$12 billion in Medi-Cal reductions in the first year alone, which would be devastating to PEACH hospitals and the vulnerable communities they serve. PEACH estimates that California’s private safety-net hospitals could lose an unsustainable \$1.9 billion annually under the AHCA.

“The Medi-Cal coverage expansion made possible by the Affordable Care Act is making a difference in the lives of our high-risk, low-income communities,” said Douglas. “Since its implementation, California’s community safety-net hospitals have provided comprehensive health care services to more than 1 million new Medi-Cal patients.”

“Reversing this progress would be a drastic step backwards to sicker, less productive communities, strained emergency rooms, skyrocketing charity care, and costlier care for all Californians,” continued Douglas. “That’s a very alarming prognosis for the health and economic productivity of communities statewide.”

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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.