



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. Senate's Draft Health Care Bill Would Impose Devastating Cuts to Medicaid,
Diminish Access to Essential Care and Increase the Uninsured by Millions**

SACRAMENTO – Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH), representing California's community safety-net hospitals that provide one-third of all Medi-Cal inpatient care, expressed alarm about the draft Senate bill released today that would replace the Affordable Care Act.

"Under the proposed Senate health care bill, California's Medi-Cal program would face massive cuts that would drastically diminish Medi-Cal eligibility, access and coverage for the 14 million current Medi-Cal beneficiaries and destabilize the safety-net hospital providers that serve them – this is simply an unacceptable alternative," said Catherine Douglas, PEACH president and CEO.

As proposed, this bill would impose extreme cost pressures on California's budget, tens of thousands in job losses and an overall decline in California's economy, continued Douglas.

"For the sake of California's communities statewide – especially seniors and our most medically and economically vulnerable – we urge the Senate to make significant changes to this health care bill to ensure millions of Californians continue to have access to meaningful and affordable coverage and that the health care safety-net they rely upon remains viable."

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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.