



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Private Essential Access Community Hospitals Founding President/CEO  
to Retire in the First Quarter of 2020**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Rob Curry, board chair of Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH) – California’s association of community safety net hospitals – announced today that its founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Catherine K. Douglas, will retire within the first quarter of 2020.

“For more than 25 years, Catherine Douglas has been an invaluable leader in policy development and advocacy on behalf of California’s community safety net hospitals and the vulnerable communities we serve,” said Curry.

Douglas has been PEACH’s president and CEO since the organization was founded in January of 1994. A nationwide search for her replacement is currently under way and interested candidates can inquire at [PEACH\\_CEO\\_Recruitment@peachinc.org](mailto:PEACH_CEO_Recruitment@peachinc.org).

Throughout her tenure at PEACH, Douglas has been instrumental in the development of statewide policies and legislation to stabilize community safety net hospitals and ensure they can continue providing low-income communities throughout California with high-value and culturally sensitive care at the right time in the right setting.

Prior to leading PEACH, Douglas spent 11 years as chief policy advisor to Henry J. Mello, then Senate Majority Leader and vice chair of the Senate Health Committee, spearheading successful legislation to advance better health care access and educational opportunities for all Californians.

“It has truly been an honor to advance PEACH’s mission to ensure that low-income and elderly Californians have choice and access to high-value and culturally appropriate health care services from a strong community health care safety net,” said PEACH President and CEO Catherine Douglas. “My work with PEACH has been very fulfilling personally and professionally because community safety net hospital services and programs elevate the health and quality of life of entire communities – especially our most vulnerable Californians.”

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*Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH) is the statewide association 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 provide 89 percent of their care to Medicaid, Medicare and uninsured patients. California’s community safety net hospitals also provide more care to Medi-Cal patients and seniors, and more emergency room services and Medi-Cal mental health inpatient care than any other safety net hospital sector in the state.*