



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Joint Statement from Paul Salles, President & CEO of the Louisiana Hospital Association,
and Jennifer McMahon, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans,
Regarding the American Health Care Act
March 14, 2017**

(Baton Rouge) – The Louisiana Hospital Association and the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans are deeply concerned about several provisions in the American Health Care Act (AHCA). We strongly urge Congress to engage in a thoughtful, transparent process when it comes to major changes to our healthcare system, and we are ready and willing to work with them to ensure Louisiana residents have continued access to critical healthcare services.

While a Louisiana-specific impact analysis of the AHCA is not yet available, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that coverage losses will impact low-income Medicaid enrollees and the elderly (50-64) most severely. The Medicaid program would receive the most significant cut in federal support, an estimated \$880 billion over the next 10 years, resulting in 14 million more uninsured nationally.

In Louisiana, cuts of this magnitude would negatively impact services to the most vulnerable covered by Medicaid, including the elderly, disabled, children and pregnant women.

As lawmakers work to re-examine the law, patients and the caregivers who serve them across Louisiana are depending on Congress to make continued coverage a priority. Under the Affordable Care Act, there have been significant investments in the healthcare of Louisiana residents that must be protected. During these tough economic times in our state, we must carefully consider any major healthcare changes that could negatively impact Louisiana's patients, budget and economy.

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About the Louisiana Hospital Association

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LAHospitals or on Twitter [@LAHospitals](https://twitter.com/LAHospitals).

About the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans

The Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans is a non-profit, regional membership and service organization representing hospitals and healthcare organizations in the Greater New Orleans Area since 1977.

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