



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from LHA Regarding HB 1 and Potential Cuts to Healthcare Providers May 27, 2011

Statement from LHA President & CEO John Matessino

Late yesterday, the Louisiana House of Representatives approved a \$25 billion proposed state budget with an amendment intended to protect private healthcare providers.

The administration interprets this amendment as an \$81 million cut to the fiscal year 2012 healthcare budget, which would negatively impact private providers. According to Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Bruce Greenstein, HB 1, in its current state, would lead to at least a 7.5 percent across the board cut to private healthcare providers.

I want to reiterate that community hospitals have already been cut by 18 percent, or \$230 million, over the last two years. Any additional cuts would limit access to care for Louisiana's most vulnerable patients and would ultimately destroy our healthcare infrastructure.

I urge all lawmakers and the administration involved in the budget process to protect our patients, our healthcare workforce, our hospitals and our communities.

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