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**Statement from A.J. Wilhelmi, President & CEO  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Re: U.S. House Vote on American Health Care Act**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) and Illinois hospital community are disappointed with the results of today's vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

We have serious concerns that the proposed legislation would cause harm to patients, the healthcare delivery system, the state budget and the state economy.

More than one million Illinoisans have coverage under current law, enabling them to get the healthcare they need when they need it. The AHCA would eliminate coverage for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans, and possibly jeopardize coverage for patients with pre-existing conditions. The bill would also repeal enhanced federal funding for expanded Medicaid coverage and impose a cap on federal funding to the states for Medicaid.

Illinois is now 50<sup>th</sup> among the states in federal Medicaid funding support. Under the AHCA, the state could lose \$40 billion in federal Medicaid funding over ten years. Our state is unable to absorb such massive cuts without impacting healthcare for all patients. In addition, while the proposed legislation rolls back the Affordable Care Act's expansion in coverage, it retains the Medicare cuts to Illinois hospitals that helped pay for that coverage. *[Those Medicare cuts to Illinois hospitals are projected to be more than \$10 billion over the next ten years.]*

The U.S. Senate should not rush the legislative process on this flawed proposal, and take all the necessary time and deliberation to make needed changes to ensure meaningful and affordable healthcare coverage for thousands of Illinoisans.

IHA looks forward to our continued dialogue with the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support hospitals in fulfilling their mission of providing quality care to their communities.

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**About IHA**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 50 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of health care and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see [www.team-iha.org](http://www.team-iha.org).