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FAH RESPONSE TO ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President and CEO of the Federation of American Hospitals:

The FAH understands the urgent need for America's policymakers to meet the fiscal challenges facing this nation.

However, we are extremely concerned that the Administration's FY'13 budget proposes arbitrary cuts to already inadequate Medicare and Medicaid hospital funding.

These cuts are shortsighted and would be counterproductive. Not only will they weaken the hospital safety net and reduce access for seniors and other vulnerable citizens, they also threaten the vital role that America's hospitals play as the largest private employers and source of good, new jobs in most communities across the country.

Clearly, there is work to do to retool the economy for major growth, put our fiscal house in order and ensure the sustainability of the programs so critical to so many seniors and low-income Americans.

The FAH is ready to work closely with the Administration and Congress in these efforts. But community hospitals must oppose policies, such as the cuts contained in this budget proposal, that are arbitrary and will not serve well those who depend on our Medicare and Medicaid programs.

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The Federation of American Hospitals is the national representative of investor-owned or managed hospitals and health systems. Our members include general community and teaching hospitals in urban and rural areas as well as rehabilitation, long-term, cancer and psychiatric hospitals.