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### ***American Health Care Act would harm California***

OAKLAND, CA, May 4, 2017 – The California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH) is expressing grave concerns about the House of Representatives’ passage of the “American Health Care Act” (H.R. 277) and the devastating impact it would have on patients, communities and providers.

“This bill could destabilize our health care safety net, and undermine all the progress we’ve made to provide more cost- effective preventive care that low-income Californians need,” said CAPH President and CEO Erica Murray. “The AHCA’s drastic cuts to the Medicaid program would return us to overcrowded emergency rooms and exorbitant uninsured rates, all while doing nothing to address the underlying cost of health care.”

CAPH represents California’s 21 public health care systems, which make up the heart of the state’s health care safety net, operating in 15 counties where 80% of the state’s population lives. These county-owned and operated facilities and University of California medical centers together account for just 6% of the state’s hospitals but provide care to 35% of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) beneficiaries in the communities they serve, and would be disproportionately affected by cuts to the Medi-Cal program. They operate half of California’s top level trauma and burn centers, train more than half of all new doctors in the state, and provide more than 75,000 jobs.

California’s public health care systems together could lose more than \$2 billion per year in revenue if the expansion is repealed, and billions more over time as a result of the structural changes proposed in the American Health Care Act, which would cap federal spending on Medicaid. Medi-Cal is already one of the leanest and most efficient health insurance programs in the country, with spending growth far below that of private insurance. (3.1% vs 4.6%) These cuts would force the state to make the terrible choice of reducing enrollment, cutting critical services, or passing massive costs onto local entities, providers, and ultimately, patients.

“This bill harms our communities’ most vulnerable and highest-risk patients, as well as the ten million Medi-Cal enrollees from working families,” said Murray. “Continued high-quality health care is essential to these Californians and their families, and their health is vital to our communities and our economy. The stakes are incredibly high.”

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