

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAH APPLAUDS HOUSE APPROVAL OF FMAP LEGISLATION

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

Today's House vote to extend enhanced FMAP payments is a long-overdue victory for millions of American families who depend upon Medicaid to meet their health care needs. This vital funding will strengthen the ability of hospitals, doctors and other health care providers to meet their commitment to care for the most vulnerable members of their communities.

Hospitals serve as the ultimate health care safety net for Americans most in need. To support these Americans, over the last year, the FAH has been tirelessly seeking Congressional approval to extend enhanced FMAP payments, which are crucial to sustain state Medicaid programs during these trying economic times.

We commend the House and its leadership for putting people first and returning to pass this important legislation. We congratulate them, and the Senate and its leadership, for their hard work and perseverance, and we look forward to President Obama quickly signing this legislation into law.

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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.