

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN HOSPITALS

Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARBITRARY HOSPITAL CUTS WILL INHIBIT JOB CREATION

Today, Federation of American Hospitals President and CEO Chip Kahn released the following statement.

The President's plan to address the federal deficit sets the stage for the important work of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. As policymakers move forward over the next several weeks, we urge them to seek policies which would get Americans back to work and spur economic growth.

Economic growth is the best way to reduce the deficit and achieve the goal of getting our nation's fiscal house in order. Further Medicare and Medicaid payment cuts will stymie hospitals' ability to serve as one of the nation's few economic engines and stable sources of new jobs.

Additional arbitrary reductions would put more than 194,000 jobs at risk, jeopardize an equal number of jobs connected to community hospital economic activity, and result in billions of dollars in lost wages, eviscerating the ability of hospitals to help lead the economic recovery.

Hospitals serve our communities by providing quality and necessary health care and contributing to economic growth. We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to develop responsible deficit reduction proposals that will complement rather than inhibit the critical role that hospitals play in our communities and our nation.

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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.