



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

For immediate release

February 2, 2015

William Considine, Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors, and President & CEO, Akron Children's Hospital, issued the following statement in response to Governor Kasich's Executive Budget proposal released today:

The members of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association (Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dayton Children's, Nationwide Children's Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital and UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital) provide the highest quality of care to all Ohio children, regardless of the family's ability to pay. We take great pride in transforming lives by ensuring Ohio's most precious asset – our children – have access to the safest, most innovative care in the world, right here in Ohio.

We are appreciative that Governor Kasich and his administration are proposing continued funding and coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens and preservation of access to care for children. We also applaud the Governor for recognizing and incentivizing programs focused on improving health outcomes and innovative health care delivery models.

We are proud of our collaboration with our patients, families and communities to provide the right care in the right place at the right time. We appreciate the Governor's efforts to create public policy that focuses on the needs of the children, adolescents and families that we serve.

We know that to ensure that we have a strong, healthy workforce in the future, Ohio's children must have access to high quality health care when the need arises. The only way to do this is through stable, predictable funding mechanisms for children's health care in our state, and we are thankful to the Governor for recognizing this in his proposed budget.

One in three Ohio children rely on Medicaid for health care coverage, and as the state's largest Medicaid providers with an average of 51 percent of our patients relying on Medicaid, we look forward to working closely with Ohio lawmakers, Governor Kasich's administration and, specifically, Ohio Office of Health Transformation Director Moody and Ohio Medicaid Director McCarthy to ensure that the state budget places a high priority on our state's children and their short and long-term health care needs.

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More information about the Ohio Children's Hospital Association is available at ohiochildrenshospitals.org.
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