



## Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT

April 27, 2017

*The following statement can be attributed to Nick Lashutka, President & CEO, Ohio Children's Hospital Association, in response to Substitute House Bill 49, the state biennial budget bill:*

The members of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association (Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dayton Children's Hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital and UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital), are very appreciative of the efforts and leadership of the Ohio House of Representatives – specifically, Speaker Rosenberger, Finance Committee Chairman Smith, and Health and Human Services Subcommittee Chairman Romanchuk for recognizing the need to ensure stable, predictable, sufficient funding mechanisms for children's health care in our state.

Importantly, we are grateful that the eligibility levels for BCMH funding were restored so that our state's most vulnerable children will have access to the specialized health care and services they need. Additionally, we are thankful that lawmakers recognized the need for children in Medicaid Managed Care to have access to the network of world-class children's hospitals in their own state by protecting our ability to negotiate contracts with managed care companies.

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. Half of Ohio's more than 2 million children rely on Medicaid for health care coverage. As children's hospitals are the state's largest Medicaid providers, more than half of our patients rely on Medicaid.

We look forward to working closely with Ohio lawmakers and Governor Kasich's administration to ensure that the state budget continues to place a priority on our state's children and their short and long-term health care needs.

Our hospitals 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.

###

Media Contact: Angela Krile, [angela@krilecommunications.com](mailto:angela@krilecommunications.com), 740-974-3948, @angkrile