



## Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT

For immediate release

June 28, 2011

*Steve Allen, M.D., Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors, and CEO, Nationwide Children's Hospital, today issued the following statement in response to the passage of the state biennial budget (Sub. HB 153) out of the Ohio General Assembly Conference Committee...*

As Ohio's children's hospitals work to save, protect and enhance the lives of Ohio's children, we want to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Governor Kasich, President Niehaus, Speaker Batchelder, Chairman Widener, Chairman Amstutz, the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor's Office of Health Transformation in ensuring that we could continue to fulfill this valuable mission.

In a time of unprecedented budget challenges, Ohio lawmakers made the health and wellbeing of Ohio's children a priority, working to minimize the negative impact of budget changes on our institutions. Ohio's public officials recognized the excellent value proposition Ohio's children's hospitals bring to the state, as Ohio's Medicaid spend for children is 22 percent below the national average with above average outcomes for children.

Additionally, our public officials understood that Ohio's children's hospitals already lose more money on Medicaid than any other Medicaid provider – losses that equate to \$427 million over a biennial budget – due to the more than 20 percent gap between Medicaid reimbursements and our costs. By restoring the children's hospital line item, clarifying the process for children's hospitals to become pediatric Accountable Care Organizations and ensuring that we have the ability to fairly negotiate managed care contracts, Ohio lawmakers have demonstrated their commitment to the state's most precious asset – our children.

In particular, we want to commend Senator Shannon Jones, who worked tirelessly to understand the policy needs of Ohio's children's hospitals to ensure appropriate changes were made to the budget as it moved through the Ohio Senate.

As our state moves forward in transforming the Medicaid program, we look forward to working with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation and the Ohio General Assembly to continue our efforts to improve outcomes and cut costs through our nationally renowned quality improvement efforts.

Ohio is fortunate to have the best statewide network of children's hospitals in the nation – and thanks to the efforts of Ohio lawmakers, we will be able to continue to provide the highest quality of care to every Ohio child, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

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