



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2010

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REACTION TO OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S FY'11 PROPOSED BUDGET

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of American Hospitals:

Hospitals serve as the health care safety net for tens of millions of low income Americans, a key reason why we support comprehensive health reform.

Hospitals also support President Obama's budget provisions that would help preserve the fragile safety net. We applaud the President's budget for extending the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's increase of the federal Medicaid match. This will assist struggling States to maintain their commitment to low-income Americans who need health care assistance. Additionally, the budget would extend premium assistance for COBRA, helping Americans who have suffered a job loss retain their health care coverage.

These two provisions will help hospitals meet our mission to serve the health care needs of all Americans, and we hope to see them enacted into law this year.

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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.