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**Governor Scott's "Keep Florida Working" Budget Supports Better Health Care for All Floridians**  
*Expands Graduate Medical Education Program*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Governor Scott today released his 2015-2016 “KEEP FLORIDA WORKING” budget, which strengthens Florida’s position as a leader in health care quality. Among the highlights in the budget include expanding the Graduate Medical Education by investing \$7 million in new funds to the Statewide Residency Program.

Governor Scott said, “I am proud that we can continue to make investments that will give Floridians the opportunity to lead a healthy and safe life. We have seen great success with our Statewide Residency Program and our proposed investment will enable Florida’s outstanding hospitals to take on more residents and continue to produce great doctors.”

“Governor Scott continues to support programs and processes that improve efficiency and promote transparency. His commitment to strengthening Florida’s position as a leader in health care quality is one that I both share and admire,” said Agency Secretary Liz Dudek. “I’m especially excited to see Governor Scott increase funding for the Statewide Residency Program, which helps ensure that Florida’s best medical talent stays here in the state, and the expansion of the State’s Background Screening Clearinghouse.”

The *Keep Florida Working* budget includes \$87 million for Florida’s Statewide Residency Program. Many physicians build their practices in the very same communities where they received their training. This homegrown workforce is vital to provide quality healthcare in our state for years to come. The creation of the Statewide Residency Program has resulted in additional residency slots, which has had an immediate impact around the state.

“Today’s medical students are tomorrow’s doctors,” said John P. Fogarty, MD, Chair of the Council of Florida Medical School Deans. “The Governor’s focus on graduate medical education has already led to more than 55 new residency slots across the state. We are thankful for the continued dedication to this important program.”

**Recommended Funding Highlights**

**Prospective Payment System Study for Outpatient Services and Nursing Homes**  
**(\$1 million)**

**Emmett Reed, Executive Director for the Florida Health Care Association, said,** “Governor Scott should be commended for continuing to seek transparency and improved value in health



care for Florida’s taxpayers. The Prospective Payment System Studies will facilitate equitable, predictable costs for the high-quality care and services we are providing to residents in Florida’s skilled nursing centers.”

Governor Scott’s proposed funding to develop prospective payment systems for hospital outpatient and nursing home services builds on the success of funding models such as those for diagnosis related groups (DRGs). Putting the patient at the heart of the process benefits recipients and Florida taxpayers by rewarding efficiency and better health outcomes.

### **Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse (\$400,000)**

**Marilyn Wood, President and CEO of Opis Management Resources, said,** “I want to thank Governor Scott for his support of this extremely important resource and for his commitment to ensuring that Florida’s background screening process is both thorough and secure. Having the ability to use the Background Screening Clearinghouse for nursing home team members has not only saved me money, but also allows me to devote more of my time to what is really important – caring for our residents.”

Governor Scott recommends funding for the expansion of Florida’s nationally acclaimed Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse. In operation since 2013, the Clearinghouse enables several state agencies to quickly and easily conduct criminal background checks. This expedites the hiring process for employers and allows qualified applicants to start work sooner. Other states are now using Florida’s Clearinghouse as a model for developing their own background screening programs.

### **Advanced Data Analytics and Detection Services (\$3 million)**

**Melinda M. Miguel, Chief Inspector General for the State of Florida, said,** “Attempts to defraud Florida’s Medicaid program are becoming more sophisticated with every passing day. We must constantly seek out new technology to give us an edge over fraud. I am thrilled that Governor Scott and his administration are fighting to protect the integrity of public benefit programs like Medicaid by using advanced data analytics.”

Advanced data analytics builds on Florida’s efforts to fight fraud, waste, and abuse within the Medicaid program. This new tool will provide better oversight of Medicaid providers within the state and identify applicants with a history of suspected fraud to prevent improper payments.

To view the complete list of Governor Scott’s *Keep Florida Working* Budget recommendations, visit <http://www.KeepFloridaWorking.com>.

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov).*

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