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Gov. Scott's Florida First Budget Will Make Florida First in Improving Transparency and Fighting Price Gouging at Hospitals

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, the Agency for Health Care Administration highlighted Governor Rick Scott's Florida First budget, which invests \$25.7 billion for fiscal year 2016-2017, to improve health care transparency, fight price gouging at Florida hospitals, and promote efficiency in the Florida Medicaid program. These investments will help empower Floridians to make more informed health care decisions and get the best possible care for themselves and their families.

Governor Scott said, "We have heard directly from Floridians who believe they have suffered from unfair pricing at Florida hospitals. These important investments in the Florida First budget will help AHCA make necessary reforms to make hospitals more transparent in Florida. We want Florida to be first in healthcare, and empowering Floridians with the tools they need to make decisions about their healthcare services is a crucial first step."

Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Secretary Elizabeth Dudek said, "Governor Scott continues to support investments in our programs and processes that improve efficiency and promote transparency. Florida remains a leader in health information technology, and with the proposed investments in the Florida First budget we can optimize the flow of patient information which will lead to improved health outcomes through more collaborative delivery systems."

The "Florida First" budget proposes:

\$5 Million for an All Payer Claims Database

The Florida First budget supports Governor Scott's proposed [Healthcare Transparency](#) bill with the development of an All Payer Claims Database (APCD) to expand consumer information available on FloridaHealthFinder.gov. This tool will assist in allowing the development of analytic tools for Floridians to search prices, health care quality, and outcomes for services at Florida hospitals. The APCD will promote informed consumer purchasing decisions and provide all stakeholders with the resources needed to enhance the understanding of health care cost, quality and utilization in Florida.

Karen van Caulil, Ph.D, Florida Health Care Coalition, said, "I appreciate Governor Scott's commitment to price transparency at Florida hospitals because it will ensure that all Floridians understand the costs of services provided. Patients deserve to know the necessary information so that they can make knowledgeable health care decisions for themselves and their families."

\$17 Million to the Florida Medicaid Management Information Systems

This year's budget proposes funding for continued planning and preparation for the procurement of the Florida Medicaid Management Information Systems the Medicaid Decision Support



System, which is critical to administer the Medicaid program, which handles billions of dollars in transactions each year. The current contract will expire in June 2018. With the updated system the Agency will better align with the fully integrated Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program and will strengthen our business intelligence.

Florida continues to be a leader in health Information Technology (IT). Updating the FMMIS system is just part of the Agency's efforts to modernize our technology. Florida was among the first states to launch one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive websites for health care data, FloridaHealthFinder.gov.

Another leading health technology service is Florida's Event Notification Service (ENS). The ENS has made great progress in opening up the lines of communication between hospitals, health plans and other providers. Covering more than 1 million Floridians, the ENS provides alerts to health plans, accountable care organizations and subsequently to primary care providers when a member has a hospitalization or emergency department visit. This alert allows earlier care coordination to improve aftercare and avoid re-hospitalization.

Dr. David Gilchrist with Sunshine Health said, "Florida is among the leaders in the nation in health IT, and by continuing to make targeted investments we will improve outcomes for patients. We applaud Governor Scott's support for enhancing and upgrading technology systems in Florida that will improve access to quality health care services."

David Klebonis with Palm Beach Accountable Care Organization said, "ENS has tremendous potential to increase care coordination with hospitals and physicians. We are now able to coordinate care at admission, reduce hospital length of stay and reduce re-admissions through PCP transitional care management. We are fortunate that Florida is one of the first to offer this technology."

\$500,000 for the Development of a Nursing Home Prospective Payment Process

Governor Scott's proposed funding will develop a prospective payment system for nursing home services based on a fixed, pre-determined payment amount, regardless of the setting of care. This will improve efficiency, effectiveness and payment understanding for service providers and patients.

LeadingAge Florida President/CEO Steve Bahmer said, "We appreciate Governor Scott's commitment in his Florida First budget to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Florida Medicaid program. I look forward to LeadingAge Florida being actively involved with AHCA and the Governor's office in a process that results in a fair and equitable reimbursement system."

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 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).