

*For Immediate Release*

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## **HARI Reacts to Governor’s Proposed Budget**

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*The FY18 proposed state budget released by Gov. Gina Raimondo on January 19, 2017 includes elimination of upper payment limit payments (federal funds used to ensure Medicaid reimburses hospitals at an amount equal to Medicaid), Medicaid payment reductions, and cuts to inpatient mental health providers. The Hospital Association of Rhode Island continues to analyze the impact of these proposals.*

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island and its members are disappointed the proposed budget includes hospital payment cuts. We will continue to work with the General Assembly and Administration to find lasting solutions that address state fiscal problems while ensuring a financially stable healthcare system.

Hospitals provide nearly \$7 billion in economic impact to our state. Elected officials must recognize hospitals are critical to a strong, healthy and stable Rhode Island. We urge them to make the appropriate investments to ensure the safety net is protected for Rhode Island patients.

As officials in Washington, D.C. consider the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, nearly ten percent of our state faces future problems accessing healthcare. In addition, hospitals could struggle with \$1.7 billion in cuts on top of the \$1 billion in reductions used to fund implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

We urge Governor Raimondo and the General Assembly to protect access to healthcare during this time of uncertainty.

- Michael R. Souza, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island

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*Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high-quality health care.*