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The Honorable Elizabeth Dudek  
Secretary  
Agency for Health Care Administration  
2727 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

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AGENCY FOR HEALTH  
CARE ADMINISTRATION

Dear Secretary Dudek:

As you prepare to participate in Governor Rick Scott's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding, we thought it would be helpful to tell you about the impact of healthcare funding issues on Florida's children and the role that All Children's Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine plays in the lives of many of our state's children.

As one of three specialty licensed children's hospitals in Florida, All Children's is a statewide essential healthcare provider. Our mission is to advance the health of Florida's children through clinical care, research, education/training and advocacy. As a research institution, teaching hospital and provider of services to the sickest of sick children, we are wholly focused on pediatrics. We treat children from every county in Florida and provide care in some 50 pediatric specialties. More than half of our 259 beds are dedicated to intensive care level services.

As a stand-alone pediatric provider, we do not receive Medicare payments and we do not have the ability to cost-shift. Supplemental payments through the Low Income Pool (LIP) are critical to sustaining our mission. Losing \$55 million in LIP funds would have a devastating effect on our ability to provide care to Florida's children—particularly those with the most complex conditions and needs.

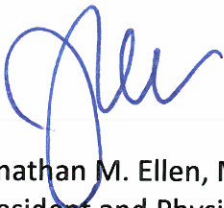
LIP is of great significance to All Children's Hospital. We are the state's highest Medicaid provider, with 70 percent of patient covered through Medicaid, and these payments often do not cover the cost of care, leaving LIP to fill that gap.

Children with complex and chronic medical conditions may lose access to critical specialized care if LIP funding is not extended. The unique services we provide to children from throughout the Tampa Bay region and beyond could be threatened. Our commitment to training new generations of pediatricians, pediatric specialists and pediatric nurses could be negatively impacted, along with a growing research program aimed at new discoveries to improve children's health.

As the population of children in Florida has grown, our organization has grown as well, making our not-for-profit organization one of our region's largest private employers. Our commitment to education and research keeps us closely involved with other innovators and leaders in the community.

We are committed to our mission of caring for all children and we want to work with state leaders to ensure that Florida's sickest children will continue to receive the vital care they need from some of the most capable specialists within our state. We would be pleased to help you learn more about All Children's Hospital's mission and our role in helping Florida's children become healthy adults.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Ellen, M.D.  
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