



American Hospital Association®

STATEMENT ON HOUSE BILL

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The impending budget crisis is real, and we need to work together to provide financial certainty to our economy. But today's proposal by the House would negatively impact all patients, especially the nation's most vulnerable – children, the poor, elderly and the disabled.

While the proposal calls for eliminating the sequester cuts for defense and veterans' programs, the Medicare sequester would remain in place. As a result, more than 766,000 health care and related jobs could be lost by 2021, according to a [report](#) released by the AHA, American Medical Association and American Nurses Association. In addition, it would reduce Medicaid payments for disproportionate share hospitals, and restrict the Medicaid provider assessment program. Hospitals provide economic stability as well as essential public services to the communities they serve. Moreover, these reductions come on top of substantial cuts in payments that hospitals are already absorbing.

There are alternatives to further ratcheting of provider payments that deserve further consideration, which have been proposed by various commissions and that hospitals support. We know tough choices must be made, but America's most vulnerable should not have to continue to shoulder the burden.

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