



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

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America's Essential Hospitals Statement on Senate Immigration Reform Bill

Statement attributable to:
Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO
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WASHINGTON—"America's Essential Hospitals recognizes the significant accomplishment of the Senate in advancing legislation to reform immigration laws. We look forward to continuing the discussion about the nation's approach to immigrant populations and their needs.

"But we remain deeply concerned about the health care outlook for immigrants and their families. The Affordable Care Act won't reach the nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants and might prove unaffordable for many others legally here. A patchwork of funding sources now exists for uninsured immigrants and, in most cases, pays for only limited services, such as emergency care.

"This inadequate framework also leaves essential hospitals unreimbursed for costly related services, such as transportation and follow-up care. Worse, little funding exists for important preventive and primary care services that can keep uninsured immigrants healthy and prevent their conditions from worsening, adding further costs to the health care system.

"As we continue the national dialogue on immigration reform, we must consider the costs to lives and our nation of failing to recognize the health care needs of immigrants and the hospital capacity required to care for them. America's Essential Hospitals encourages Congress to consider legislation to address the yawning gaps in access to care for millions of people in the United States."

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About America's Essential Hospitals

America's Essential Hospitals, formerly the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, is the leading association and champion for hospitals and health systems dedicated to high-quality care for all, including the most vulnerable. Since 1981, America's Essential Hospitals has initiated, advanced, and preserved programs and policies that help these hospitals ensure access to care. It supports members with advocacy, policy development, research, and education.

Our more than 200 members are vital to their communities, providing primary care through trauma care, disaster response, health professionals training, research, public health programs, and other services. They innovate and adapt to lead the broader health care community toward more effective and efficient care. Visit EssentialHospitals.org to learn more