



Preserve critical Medicaid funding for 1.1 million Ohio children

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT** **FROM THE OHIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL** **ASSOCIATION**

For immediate release July 13, 2009

*Bill Considine, Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors and President and CEO, Akron Children's Hospital, today issued the following statement in response to passage of the Conference Report for Amended Substitute House Bill 1 by the Ohio General Assembly:*

"We commend Governor Strickland, Senate President Harris, Speaker Budish, and all members of the Conference Committee for the wise decision to ensure Ohio's children's hospitals can continue to provide essential, high quality health care for our state's youngest citizens.

During a time of unprecedented economic challenges in our state and nationwide, we are immensely grateful for the strong bi-partisan support exhibited by the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly for the unique, critical role Ohio's children's hospitals play in meeting the state's health care needs.

Ohio's children's hospitals are disproportionately reliant on Medicaid funding and already shoulder a \$160 million annual\* funding gap for providing care to Medicaid-reliant and uninsured children. This gap is growing at an alarming rate. Ohio lawmakers have responded to the growing demand for health care services for needy children by ensuring that Ohio's children's hospitals have the appropriate resources during these difficult times.

We also commend legislative leadership and the Conference Committee for protecting children's hospitals' ability to negotiate contracts with Medicaid Managed care companies by keeping the Medicaid managed care non-contracting provisions out of the budget.

We would like to thank Governor Strickland, Senate President Harris, Speaker Budish, members of the Administration, and the Ohio General Assembly for recognizing that without their continued support, we would not be able to ensure every Ohio child has access to the finest network of children's health care institutions in the nation, regardless of their family's ability to pay."

###

\*based on 2007 figures

For More Information Contact:  
Angela Krile  
614-224-0600 or 740-974-3948 (cell)

**Ohio Children's Hospital Association • 614-228-2844 • [www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org](http://www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org)**

