

Please see the statement below on behalf of FHA President Bruce Rueben:

Regarding an All Payer Claims Database

"Hospital charge and payment data are already publicly available. In the weeks ahead, the Florida Hospital Association will provide this information in an easier-to-use format. We have long-supported the creation of an All Payer Claims Database (APCD). It will help individuals, businesses and policymakers better understand what is driving Florida's health care costs. By utilizing claims data from health plans and all providers, APCDs provide meaningful information about costs, access and quality across the entire continuum of care."

Regarding Low Income Pool Funding

"Low Income Pool funding reductions only underscore the need for a long-term solution to address the high number of uninsured individuals in Florida. It is a challenge that we will continue to face until our state utilizes available federal funds to extend health care coverage to low-income, working Floridians. Today, when uninsured people need hospital care, they have no way to pay for it. So, they often wait until they are so sick they must access care through the emergency room. The result is that their care is more expensive because their conditions have advanced. By denying these Floridians access to health insurance coverage we've already paid for, the Administration is exacting a greater hidden tax on the health insurance premiums paid by Florida businesses and individuals. At more than 8 percent of health insurance premiums, eliminating this hidden tax is the most effective step Florida can take to make health care more affordable."

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