



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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NAPH cautions against additional strain on safety net through deficit reduction

**Statement attributable to:
Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems**

WASHINGTON – “NAPH congratulates Congress and the administration for their bipartisan work to keep the country on course for an economic recovery. This week’s tax agreement marks an important step toward resolving our fiscal crisis, and we remain hopeful for continued progress.

“As lawmakers and the president turn to the challenges of sequestration and the debt ceiling, we urge them to make health care for vulnerable people the highest priority and to reject proposals that might strain the nation’s fragile safety net. Hospitals that care for large numbers of Medicaid and other low-income patients already have contributed significantly to federal health care savings, and will continue to do their part to improve quality and efficiency. But more federal spending cuts only will harm access to care and shift costs to state and local governments and taxpayers.

“NAPH looks forward to the continuing debate on deficit reduction and offers its expertise and that of its members to help establish reliable, equitable funding for hospitals and health systems that provide care to all, regardless of ability to pay.”

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

NAPH represents the nation’s safety net hospitals and health systems, which provide high volumes of care to low-income individuals. These facilities offer high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to helping ensure access to health care for all Americans, safety net hospitals provide many essential communitywide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Safety net hospitals also train many of America’s doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. Since its inception in 1980, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, with the executive branch, and in many state capitols. NAPH advocates on behalf of its members on such issues as Medicaid, Medicare, and access to health care services for vulnerable populations. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.naph.org/>.