



National
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STATEMENT

White House Forum on Health Reform Nation's Safety Net Hospital's Chosen as Essential Voice in Critical Dialogue

Larry S. Gage, President

National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)
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Washington, DC –Today, the nation's safety net hospital systems was honored to have a seat at the table as the Obama Administration begins plans to expand health care coverage to all Americans and overhaul the health care system. Coming on the heels of the President's unprecedented budget request which included a \$634 billion down payment for reforming the current health care system, NAPH is pleased to have been extended this opportunity to be part of this critical dialogue to offer long-term solutions that guarantee access to care, improve quality of care and enhance the efficiency of the health care system.

The President's goals are lofty, but not impossible. We share in his commitment to reform the system, increase coverage and enhance the quality and improve the efficiency of patient care. Over the years, safety net health systems have closely partnered with federal and state government to address the health care system's failures and ensure patients have access to the care they need, when they need it. Today, we strive to remain close partners in all efforts to reform the health care system to achieve these essential goals.

Safety net hospital systems are already working to fill the gaps in our nation's complicated health care system. The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems can provide a real world perspective on how to create a health care system that is effective, efficient and responsive to patients. We stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to develop solutions that will ensure access to care for all Americans, improve patient outcomes and lower health care costs.