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**Statement from Doug Leonard, President, Indiana Hospital Association
Regarding Approval of HIP 2.0 Waiver by CMS**

“It’s a great day for so many in our state, including hard-working families, veterans and others who have struggled without health insurance. Through HIP 2.0, more than 350,000 additional Hoosiers will now have affordable options for coverage, and Indiana hospitals stand ready to educate our patients about the new program.

We are grateful to Governor Pence for his leadership on this critical issue and commend his administration for their many months of hard work to obtain approval and prepare for implementation.

With fewer uninsured in Indiana, we can provide our patients with preventative care and appropriate treatment in a timely manner. This will not only improve the health status of our citizens, but will also reduce the cost of delivering services, helping to reduce health insurance premiums for Hoosiers who already have coverage.

In addition, by leveraging billions of dollars in available funding, we can strengthen the state’s health care safety net, which is strained by the rapidly growing costs of uncompensated care. All Hoosiers will reap tremendous benefits from this decision.”

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Indiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization that serves as the professional trade association for 164 Hoosier hospitals. These members are either independent or a member of one of the 23 systems in the state. Membership includes hospitals, multi-hospital systems and community mental health centers. The mission of the IHA is to provide leadership, representation and services in the common best interests of its members as they promote the improvement of community health status. IHA’s primary responsibility is to represent the interests of hospitals in matters of public policy. IHA also provides members with education, communications and data collection services.