



# LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Statement on Louisiana Governor Edwards' Executive Order on Expansion LHA President and CEO Paul A. Salles January 12, 2016**

(Baton Rouge) – Paul Salles, president and CEO of the Louisiana Hospital Association, released the following statement after Governor John Bel Edwards signed an executive order beginning the process of Medicaid expansion in Louisiana.

We applaud the governor for his action today and look forward to working with state leaders on improving and making healthcare a priority in Louisiana. By moving forward with coverage expansion, today's executive order helps to improve the health of our entire state. Reducing the number of uninsured adults in Louisiana makes it easier to improve access to needed care, to limit costs for families and individuals with private insurance, and to create greater stability in Louisiana's state budget. Coverage expansion also provides an opportunity to further reforms in the Medicaid program, including the Bayou Health program, by broadening participation among primary-care providers as newly-eligible individuals enroll in that program.

To help the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) simplify these enrollment efforts, many Louisiana hospitals and other healthcare providers have agreed to provide support for additional DHH enrollment staff. This effort will save Louisiana money on administrative costs and place enrollment staff on-site in healthcare facilities where they can reach more uninsured patients.

The LHA looks forward to working with the governor, legislature and DHH during the upcoming months to fully implement coverage expansion in our state.

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#### **About the Louisiana Hospital Association**

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at [www.lhaonline.org](http://www.lhaonline.org), or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LAHospitals](https://www.facebook.com/LAHospitals) or on Twitter [@LAHospitals](https://twitter.com/LAHospitals).

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