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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Children's Hospital Bond Initiative Submits 643,000 Signatures to Qualify for November Ballot

California Hospital Association and Children's Specialty Care Coalition also endorse bond, which supports expansion and modernization of California's Children's Hospitals

Sacramento, Calif. (May 2, 2018) – The California Children's Hospital Association today submitted nearly 643,000 signatures to county election officials to qualify The Children's Hospital Bond Act of 2018 for the November 2018 ballot. If approved, the measure will authorize a \$1.5 billion bond to expand and upgrade California's Children's Hospitals, which handle more than 1 million visits by children each year.

"California's Children's Hospitals are proud to provide life-saving care for kids across the state," said Ann-Louise Kuhns, President and CEO of the California Children's Hospital Association. "As new breakthroughs in medicine enable children with complex health conditions to grow and thrive, the demand for specialized pediatric care is increasing. This bond will help ensure Children's Hospitals can help more kids get the care they need and ultimately save more lives."

California's 13 regional Children's Hospitals provide specialized care for children and young adults up to age 21 who suffer from serious and life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, sickle cell anemia, cancer, and cystic fibrosis. These hospitals treat all kids, regardless of their families' income or ability to pay. In reflection of the important high-quality care these hospitals provide, the California Hospital Association Board voted to endorse the bond at its meeting on April 19.

"Children's Hospitals and hospitals that address children's special needs are critical community resources for kids across California, and they have a proven record of providing high-quality, life-saving care," said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the California Hospital Association. "We are pleased to support The Children's Hospital Bond Act of 2018, which will improve and expand access to care for the children who need it most."

The Children's Specialty Care Coalition Board also voted to endorse the measure. "As a community of pediatric specialists, we understand the importance of ensuring children with complex health care needs have access to timely and high-quality medical care," added Erin Kelly, Executive Director of the Children's Specialty Care Coalition, which represents nearly 2,500 pediatric subspecialty physicians, including those who work in California's Children's Hospitals. "This bond gives our members and the Children's Hospitals where they work the resources they need to continue offering the highest quality of care to kids."

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Additional key facts about California's Children's Hospitals:

- California's Children's Hospitals perform 97 percent of all pediatric organ transplants and 96 percent of all pediatric heart surgeries, and they conduct 76 percent of all pediatric cancer treatments.
- Children's Hospitals are premier pediatric research centers, making leading-edge biomedical discoveries that benefit all kids.
- These advances in medical research and technology are producing dramatic results. Today, 85 percent of children diagnosed with leukemia are cured.

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About the California Children's Hospital Association

For more than 20 years, the California Children's Hospital Association (CCHA) has been advocating on behalf of California's eight free-standing, not-for-profit hospitals to advance the well-being of children, promote access to high quality pediatric health care, and ensure the long-term viability of Children's Hospitals. The Association works with state and national leaders to address issues impacting the hospitals' ability to provide the best care possible to the children of California, especially those with special and complex medical conditions. For more information, visit CCHA.org.

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