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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Hospital Bond Act of 2018 "About Saving Kids' Lives"

In Case You Missed It: Testimony Before Joint Health Committee Hearing

Sacramento, Calif. (May 16, 2018) – During a joint informational hearing held by the California Senate and Assembly Health Committees on Tuesday, lawmakers heard powerful testimony in support of a pending November 2018 ballot initiative that, if approved, will authorize a \$1.5 billion bond to expand and upgrade California's Children's Hospitals.

Ann-Louise Kuhns – President & CEO, California Children's Hospital Association

"Every year California's Children's Hospitals treat over 1 million children's injuries and illnesses without regard to a family's ability to pay ...

"We are seeing children with medical complexities live longer, but with continued need or medical care. For example, children with cystic fibrosis did not used to survive past early adolescence, but are now living well into adulthood ...

"The purpose of The Children's Hospital Bond Act is to ensure that Children's Hospitals can acquire the technology and add the capacity to meet the medical needs of the most medically complex children and ultimately save more lives."

Jena Jensen – Chief Government Relations Officer, CHOC Children's Hospital of Orange County

"The Children's Hospital Bond would give us ... better access and more access to specialty care service. We also need to invest in innovative programs that are going to bring our services into the community where and when families need them and want them.

"The demand for our services is growing, but it's a good story. It's a story about saving kids' lives. They're surviving, but they need continuing care from us, and that is one reason why the demand for our services is growing."

Jennifer Page – Mother of son, Max, who was born in 2004 with a congenital heart disease and has since had 13 surgeries

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Committee major funding from
Children's Hospital of Orange County
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"[Max] had his first surgery when he was three months old ... Most recently, which was three months ago, he had an open heart surgery to replace a pulmonary valve. But because of the great care he receives, that's not his total story. He loves learning; he loves academics; he's an athlete; he's an actor.

"Max is living proof of patients whose lives are saved and the quality improved because of the technology advancements the industry is making, and our centers where research is done, the infrastructure enhancements and the improved patient care.... It's transformative what can happen, but that only happens if the hospitals can keep up with the infrastructure, to keep up with technology the industry is providing."

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.

Earlier this month, the California Children's Hospital Association submitted nearly 643,000 signatures to county election officials to qualify The Children's Hospital Bond Act of 2018 for the November 2018 ballot. The proposed bond has been endorsed by the California Hospital Association and the Children's Specialty Care Coalition.

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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