

March 22, 2017



Board of Community Health  
P.O. Box 1966  
Atlanta, GA 30301-1966

***RE: March 9, 2017 Public Notice on Hospital Services***

Dear Members of the Board of Community Health:

On behalf of our more than 170 member hospitals, the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the March 9, 2017 public notice regarding the continuation of increased Medicaid payments for hospital services pursuant to the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act.

GHA strongly supports the continuation of increased payments to participating hospitals as well as the use of the Georgia Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Advisory Committee to provide feedback and support to the Department in the administration of the program.

On a related note, GHA is aware that the Department is currently evaluating the costs and benefits of lifting the Medicaid provider enrollment moratorium on Rehabilitation and Long Term Acute Care Hospitals. In addition to the clinical benefits these hospitals can provide to certain Medicaid patients, Medicaid enrollment would allow them to receive payment for services provided to Medicaid patients as well as the increased hospital reimbursement afforded to other hospitals participating in the Hospital Provider Payment Program. Currently, most of these types of hospitals are required to pay provider fees to DCH but have not been allowed to enroll in Medicaid due to the moratorium.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, we are appreciative of the transparency and spirit of cooperation currently exercised by the Department's staff in administering this fiscally important program.

Thank you for your consideration of our input. If you have any further question, please feel free to contact me or Carie Summers, Vice President of Healthcare Financing at [csummers@gha.org](mailto:csummers@gha.org) or (770) 249-4507.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl V. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "R".

Earl V. Rogers  
President & CEO

**Georgia Hospital Association**

1675 Terrell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia 30067 • 770-249-4500 • Fax: 770-955-5801 • [www.gha.org](http://www.gha.org)