



# AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

September 6, 2018

The Honorable Joe Barton  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Barton and Castor:

America's Essential Hospitals is pleased to support H.R. 3325, the Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act.

Our more than 325 member hospitals provide specialized, lifesaving services; train the next generation of health care professionals; and advance public health and health equity. Essential hospitals are pillars of their communities and at the forefront of care coordination. Our hospitals also lead in pediatric care, including specialty and subspecialty care—27 percent of the nation's pediatric intensive care beds are at essential hospitals. Also, many essential hospitals are part of large health systems with dedicated children's hospitals.

About half of patients, including children, treated at essential hospitals rely on Medicaid or are uninsured. The ACE Kids Act will help create a more coordinated care model within Medicaid for children with complex medical needs. By creating pediatric health homes composed of designated providers offering specialized care for these children, we not only will reduce care costs and unnecessary hospital readmissions, we will create a more streamlined, manageable, and comfortable care setting for medically complex children and their families.

We thank you for your leadership on behalf of vulnerable children with some of the greatest health care needs. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH  
President and CEO