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In response to the US Senate's proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the Idaho Hospital Association is releasing the following statement:

Idaho's hospitals support meaningful reforms that positively impact quality of care, improve our healthcare delivery system and address access to care for all Idahoans. Unfortunately, the bill released yesterday misses the mark.

The healthcare proposal released by the US Senate will lead to an increased number of Idahoans without insurance, resulting in increased costs for all Idahoans. The proposal threatens the viability of our small and rural hospitals who serve as the cornerstone of care for communities throughout Idaho. Idaho's working poor, middle class, elderly, and disabled are all at risk if this proposal moves forward.

Without healthcare coverage, Idahoans will be forced to seek care in the most expensive and inefficient ways which drives up costs for all. The impact on so many of our neighbors will also have an impact on business and our economy as healthcare costs increase and access to local care is jeopardized.

Idaho's community hospitals provide much more than healthcare. They are among the state's largest employers, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and serving as the economic anchor to our state's economy, particularly in rural areas.

The Idaho Hospital Association urges the U.S. Senate to take a step back, start again and find meaningful reforms that don't punish Idahoans with a hurried federal "fix". Take the time to do it right and support our health care system, not destroy it.

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