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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legend Healthcare
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Legend responds to President Obama’s proposed budget

Legend Healthcare is disappointed to see the White House's [proposed 2015 budget](#) includes creating further sharp cuts to skilled nursing facility reimbursements. To cut federal spending on healthcare by \$402 billion over the next 10 years, the White House seeks to “encourage efficient post-acute care by adjusting payment updates for certain post-acute providers.” Those adjustments would include an “accelerated schedule” for reducing skilled nursing facility Medicare market basket updates. Legend opposes the aggressive proposal as it brings further cuts to an industry that has already endured billions of cuts over recent years, severely hindering skilled nursing provider’s ability to provide the highest quality care to a quickly growing, increasingly acute elderly and disabled population. Legend agrees reforms must be made to control Medicare spending, and actively finds and practices [solutions to cost efficient, quality healthcare](#) in each of our 17 skilled nursing facilities daily. However, we do not agree that across-the-board cuts in Medicare reimbursement is an acceptable solution to our nation’s budget problems.

In addition to those general payment adjustments, the spending plan calls for equalizing payments to skilled nursing facilities and inpatient rehabilitation facilities for certain services, and adjusting SNF payments to reduce hospital readmissions. Legend supports the President’s proposal for payment equalization for certain conditions treated in both inpatient rehabilitation facilities and skilled nursing facilities. It is advantageous to the patient and the tax-payer to reimburse similar amounts to post-acute care settings providing similar services to comparable patients. Further, Legend endorses the President’s proposal to reduce costly readmissions to hospitals. We keenly work daily to reduce recidivism rates in our own facilities, and believe the reimbursement system should incentivize quality healthcare by favoring providers who have demonstrated a greater ability to improve health outcomes. As exemplified, Legend Healthcare supports thoughtful reforms. We strongly advocate that further arbitrary cuts to Medicare reimbursements are not made, and stakeholders can come together to find real solutions.

Legend Healthcare— Legend Healthcare is an innovative provider of Home Healthcare, Physical Therapy, and Skilled Nursing with 17 Long Term Care and Post-Acute Rehabilitation Facilities throughout Texas, please visit www.legendhc.com

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