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## **Governor DeSantis' Framework for Freedom Budget Funds Initiatives That Lay the Blueprint for the Future of Florida's High-quality Health Care System**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Agency for Health Care Administration commends Governor DeSantis' Framework for Freedom Budget recommendations, which continues his bold commitment to prioritize patients and providers, empower consumers, and promote high-quality care for all Floridians. The Framework for Freedom Budget includes proposals to invest principled funding to bolster and advance Florida's health care system for generations.

"I am incredibly thankful for Governor DeSantis' distinct commitment to pursue a health care system that is affordable, high quality, and serves the needs of every Floridian, said **Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida**. "The Framework for Freedom Budget provides significant funding to the Agency, which will help to increase innovation and competition, while empowering the patient to make more informed health care decisions through the advancement of our transparency measures."

Highlights from Governor DeSantis' budget recommendations for the Agency include:

### **Prioritizing Technology Initiatives that Promote Coordinated Care**

The Framework for Freedom Budget provides nearly \$166.3 million to support the continuation of the Florida Health Care Connections project. This funding will support the multiyear effort to enhance the provider and recipient experience, improve access to and quality of health care data, and enhance integration between state of Florida agencies that service similar populations.

### **Investing in Pediatric Behavioral Health Services**

The Framework for Freedom Budget includes a \$5.4 million increase in pediatric behavioral health services. To improve children's health, this funding supports programs for behavioral health including mental health and substance abuse. Through community health services, Florida will be able to prioritize targeted assistance to promote resiliency.

### **Support for Hospitals Caring for Infants and Children**



The Framework for Freedom Budget includes an additional \$76 million for Florida hospitals that provide in-patient services for acutely ill newborns and pediatric patients.

### **Fighting Inflation for Durable Medical Equipment**

The Framework for Freedom Budget will provide a 5 percent funding increase in Durable Medical Equipment (DME) rates to offset providers increased freight and raw materials costs due to inflation.

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*The Agency for Health Care Administration is Florida's chief health policy and planning entity. The Agency is responsible for administering the Florida Medicaid program, the licensure and regulation of nearly 50,000 health care facilities, and empowering consumers through health care transparency initiatives.*