**Expanding Medicaid works for [STATE]’s Hospitals**

**Hospitals everywhere face tough decisions: they do the right thing by providing care to those who need it and can’t afford it, but it strains their fiscal health. Hospitals spend billions of dollars in unpaid care for uninsured families, and with the phasing out of DSH payments hospitals could face even greater costs if states don’t expand Medicaid.**

According to the American Hospital Association, hospitals spent $39.3 billion in 2010 to treat patients who couldn’t afford insurance. Currently the federal government covers some of the costs for hospitals, but that funding will be significantly reduced beginning in 2014, leaving hospitals with the bill for uninsured patients. Now that [STATE] has the option to say no to expanding Medicaid, uncompensated care costs for hospitals nationwide could balloon by more than $53 billion by 2019.

Currently, Medicaid provides [NUMBER] of [STATE] families the coverage they need to get a checkup or see a doctor when they get sick and also ensures preventive care so they don’t get sick in the first place. And that means less uncompensated care for hospitals.

**If [STATE] expands Medicaid, more [STATEians] would have insurance, providing hospitals and the communities they serve with greater financial stability.**

Unfortunately, if [STATE] policymakers say no to expanding Medicaid in our state, [NUMBER] [STATEians] will have no affordable option for health care coverage and are almost certain to remain uninsured or underinsured.

**Hospitals are a critical partner in helping more [STATE] families get the care they need. Your voice in this debate matters.**

Hospitals are important members of the communities they serve and an integral part of our state’s health care system. Join [ORGANIZATION] to support Medicaid expansion in [STATE] by [speaking at a hearing, signing an op-ed, etc.]

**Learn more about how expanding Medicaid will benefit [STATE] hospitals and how you can [GET INVOLVED/JOIN OUR COALITION].**

Contact [NAME at ORG (EMAIL ADDRESS/PHONE)]