

# CHA Media Statement

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## Commission Report Underscores the Need to Grow, Diversify California's Health Care Workforce

California's hospitals support the key recommendations in a new report from the California Future Health Workforce Commission that calls for expanded education and training, greater diversity, and more capacity for our state's health care workforce.

"Meeting the Demand for Health" provides a comprehensive framework to ensure California's health workforce can meet the needs of the state's growing and aging population well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Health care is nothing without the women and men called to service in this profession, said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the California Hospital Association. "This new report affirms something we have known for years: that if we do not collectively invest in developing a new generation of diverse, well-trained, and well-educated health care professionals, we will fall short in our promise to care for all Californians."

California's hospitals employ more than 500,000 highly skilled professionals. This makes hospitals collectively the largest health care employer in the state, and hospitals provide ample training opportunities for a variety of health occupations.

Yet, despite committing substantial resources to attract, train and retain health professionals, California faces significant challenges, including shortages in primary care, prevention, behavioral health, and geriatric care. Geographic disparities also jeopardize access to care for millions of Californians. Key to addressing these issues is a workforce prepared to adapt to new ways of delivering care that go beyond the four walls of a hospital.

The power of this report is that it gives voice to the need for a comprehensive, statewide infrastructure to maintain a pipeline of professionals ready to meet the state's current and future health care needs.

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