

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS**

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The Florida Association of Children's Hospitals was the vision of Dr. Albert Wilkinson Jr. who believed that creating a network of institutions committed to improving the health and well-being of children would ensure children have a powerful voice in our state. In memory of this leader in pediatric surgery and his vision for improving the healthcare of children, the Florida Association of Children's Hospital announces the establishment of the Albert Wilkinson Child Health Champion recognition award, to be given to a child health professional, community advocate, or public servant who provides the voice for children that Dr. Wilkinson envisioned.

This year, the Florida Association of Children's Hospitals is pleased to recognize Senator Rene Garcia as the first Albert Wilkinson Child Health Champion. For many years, Senator Garcia has been a tireless advocate for children in the Florida Legislature.

As part of the award, the Association will make a charitable contribution to the Early Learning Coalition of Dade County to highlight the award and to recognize the dedication of Senator Garcia to the well-being of children.

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The Florida Association of Children's Hospitals (FACH) is a coalition of 16 children's hospitals that make up the backbone of the state's pediatric healthcare system. The hospitals provide care for the sickest and most vulnerable children, research cures for diseases affecting children and train pediatricians, pediatrics specialists and pediatric nurses. Combined, they provide nearly 60 percent of all pediatric hospital beds in Florida and 65 percent of all inpatient hospital days for children ages 0-17. Member hospitals are: All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women in Orlando, Baptist Children's Hospital in Miami, Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart in Pensacola, Children's Medical

Center at Tampa General Hospital, Chris Evert Children's Hospital at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida Hospital for Children in Orlando, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers, Holtz Children's Hospital at UM/Jackson Memorial Medical Center in Miami, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville, Shriners Hospitals for Children in Tampa, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa and Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.