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Governor DeSantis' Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget Provides Innovation and Transparency, Strengthening Florida's Health Care System for Generations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor DeSantis' Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget recommendations reaffirm his unwavering commitment to strengthening Florida's health care system and ensuring every resident has access to high-quality, cost-effective, and transparent care. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget equips the Agency for Health Care Administration with the necessary resources to drive innovation, enhance services, and improve health outcomes for Florida's most vulnerable populations.

"Governor DeSantis continues to champion bold, forward-thinking solutions that challenge outdated systems and prioritize the well-being of Floridians," said **Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida**. "The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget provides critical investments that will modernize health care delivery, support medical professionals, and expand access to high-quality care for those who need it most. Thanks to the Governor's leadership, Florida remains a national model for innovation and efficiency in health care."

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

- **\$2.7 million for Background Screening Clearinghouse**
This investment helps ensure one of the largest non-criminal justice criminal history repositories in the country that eight agencies are legislatively required to use, can continue to be enhanced, and maintained, and provide the level of service that our partner agencies and external stakeholders have come to expect.
- **\$3 million for Health Care Data Transparency**
This investment will allow the Agency to continue our mission of transparency and provide Floridians with comprehensive information and tools to make informed and cost-effective healthcare decisions.
- **\$800,000 for Cybersecurity Information Technology**
This investment will enhance our cybersecurity capabilities with additional positions and technical skills to address increased state and federal mandates, and for solution purchases to secure mobile devices, provide system testing, and securing the IT network perimeter.
- **\$190 million for the Florida Health Care Connections Project (FX)**
FX leverages state investments to modernize Florida's Medicaid system, improving

access to quality care while driving cost savings and efficiency. Key initiatives, such as upgrading provider and recipient services, streamlining pharmacy benefits, and enhancing data-driven decision-making, will reduce administrative burdens, improve patient outcomes, and ensure Floridians receive the best possible care.

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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.