



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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LOUISIANA POLL RESPONDENTS ARE CLEAR: NO MORE CUTS TO HOSPITALS AND STOP TAXING MEDICAL DEVICES

BATON ROUGE – A statewide poll released today by Southern Media & Opinion Research shows more than 77 percent of Louisiana residents oppose any further budget cuts to community hospitals, and nearly 70 percent want to repeal a controversial new tax on medical devices.

“When people are told that a new tax was placed on items like stents and pacemakers, they get upset,” said Paul Salles, LHA President & CEO. “It’s no secret that hospitals are the economic backbone of nearly every community in Louisiana. People recognize that and want to protect their local hospitals and healthcare jobs.”

Life-saving medical devices often allow people to avoid major surgeries and improve patients’ quality of life. Stents, pacemakers, dental implants, and knee and hip implants are among the devices that lost their exemption from state taxes in a last-minute move in the 2016 Special Legislative Session.

“We are working with lawmakers to get this fixed,” said Salles. “We have been meeting with legislators the past few weeks to explain why this tax is bad for patients.”

Senate Bill 180 by Sen. J.P. Morrell was introduced this session in an effort to restore the long-standing sales and use tax exemption for medical devices that are used by patients under the supervision of a physician.

“In addition this session, the state is grappling with a major budget shortfall that may lead to deeper cuts to hospitals,” said Salles. “Louisiana hospitals cannot bear more cuts or this new tax, and we are committed to working with lawmakers for our patients to ensure they have access to high-quality healthcare 24-7.”

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About the Louisiana Hospital Association

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LAHospitals or on Twitter [@LAHospitals](https://twitter.com/LAHospitals).

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