



For Immediate Release For more information: Berneta L. Haynes (404) 525-1085
bhaynes@georgiawatch.org

Georgia Showing Significant Gains in Hospital Safety

Atlanta, Georgia—Nov. 8, 2018 – The [Leapfrog Group](#), a national nonprofit aiming to improve health care quality for consumers, employers and purchasers, announced today the fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. [Georgia ranks 17th in the nation for hospital safety, up from 35th this past spring](#). The independent grading system assigns “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” and “F” letter grades to general acute-care hospitals in the U.S. based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

In Georgia, 75 hospitals were graded, and 26 earned an “A,” 17 earned a “B,” 23 earned a “C,” 9 earned a “D” and none earned an “F.” The following hospitals in the metro Atlanta area received an “A”: Eastside Medical Center, Emory St. Joseph’s Hospital, Piedmont Hospital, and Wellstar Kennestone Hospital.

“We congratulate Georgia’s ‘A’ hospitals for setting an example for the entire state and encourage all hospitals to make patient safety a top priority. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades offer crucial information to help Georgia consumers make informed decisions about their health care,” said Berneta L. Haynes, Director of Equity and Access at Georgia Watch. “Part of our job as a Regional Leader is to encourage hospitals in our region and state to always strive for improved patient safety. We appreciate the hospitals that voluntarily participate every year in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey to provide information about their safety practices and outcomes to consumers.”

In the wake of the high stakes mid-term election, neither party can claim victory in addressing preventable errors and infection in hospitals. The fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades show that 33 percent of hospitals in traditionally blue states and 32 percent of hospitals in traditionally red states earned “A’s.” As recently as September 2018, The Leapfrog Group testified at a hearing of the United States’ Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pension (HELP) Committee, offering guidance for a bipartisan approach to improving transparency of patient safety data and making progress on safety.

“[The Hospital Safety Grades](#) give the American public information they need and deserve about the safety of their hospitals. Avoidable medical errors and infections in hospitals are still the third leading cause of death in the nation, and that’s not a partisan issue,” said



Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We commend Georgia Watch for making this a priority."

Developed under the guidance of a National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign the grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

For more information about the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, as well as individual grades and state rankings please visit www.hospitalafetygrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Journalists interested in scheduling interviews should email Leapfrogpr@jpa.com.

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About Georgia Watch

Founded in 2002, Georgia Watch is a statewide consumer advocacy organization working to educate and protect Georgia consumers on matters that impact their quality of life, particularly the effects of predatory business practices, the high cost of utilities and healthcare, and restricted access to the civil justice system.

About The Leapfrog Group

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey collects and transparently reports hospital performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections.