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## **American Health Staffing Group Acquires Thaxton Barabe**

- \* Leading provider of interim healthcare leadership staff to country's largest hospitals*
- \* Jay Somera, Founder and CEO, remains President and leading the Company*

New York, New York – May 4, 2017 – American Health Staffing Group (“AHSG”), a leading provider of temporary healthcare staffing services and a BelHealth Investment Partners (“BelHealth”) portfolio company, announced that it has acquired Thaxton Barabe (“Thaxton” or the “Company”), a provider of interim healthcare leadership staffing.

Founded in 2013 and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Thaxton Barabe is a leading provider of interim healthcare leadership to hospitals. The Company is one of the preferred suppliers of interim healthcare leadership to some of the largest and most reputable healthcare systems in the country including Kaiser Permanente, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), Tenet Health and Sutter Health.

Jay Somera, President of Thaxton Barabe, said, “I am excited to join AHSG and benefit from the considerable resources of both BelHealth and AHSG to accelerate Thaxton’s growth. Our company has grown rapidly over the last few years and we are well positioned to continue gaining market share. We look forward to working closely with AHSG’s leadership team to build a national and diversified healthcare staffing company.”

AHSG, headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma, is a leading national and diversified healthcare staffing business with five segments (dialysis, pharmacy, interim healthcare leadership, travel nurse and VMS). Led by Steve Francis, AHSG’s Executive Chairman, the Company is focused on accelerating organic growth in its existing divisions and aggressively pursuing add-on acquisitions in high growth and attractive areas of healthcare staffing.

Mark Smith, CEO of AHSG, added, “We are thrilled to welcome Jay to our leadership team. Jay and his team have built an exceptional business that is poised to continue achieving rapid growth. Adding interim healthcare leadership to our existing offering will allow us to better serve our hospital customers throughout the country. With AHSG’s multiple divisions and national presence, we are well positioned to take advantage of the positive tailwinds in the healthcare staffing sector.”

Paul Barrett, BelHealth Vice President and AHSG Director, said, “In partnering with Jay and his team, we add another experienced senior executive to our leadership group and a new high growth division to complement our existing four verticals. We have built a diversified company with offices in three states, talented personnel throughout the country and a base from which to accelerate organic growth. We look forward to continuing our momentum and building one of the country’s leading healthcare staffing companies.”

**About American Health Staffing Group**

With headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma, AHSG is a provider of healthcare staffing services focused on placing pharmacy professionals, dialysis travel nurses, and traditional travel nurses. Since inception, the Company has realized significant growth and is well-positioned to take advantage of positive trends in the healthcare staffing industry. AHSG is focused on driving organic growth in its existing divisions, and acquiring companies in growing and attractive areas of healthcare staffing including travel and per diem nursing, locum tenens, physical therapy, and lab.

**About Thaxton Barabe**

Founded in 2013 and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Thaxton Barabe is a leading provider of interim healthcare leadership to hospitals. The Company maintains contracts with and is one of the preferred suppliers of interim healthcare leadership to some of the largest and most reputable healthcare systems in the country including Kaiser Permanente, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), Tenet Health and Sutter Health.

**About BelHealth Investment Partners**

BelHealth Investment Partners, based in New York, New York, is a healthcare private equity firm focused on lower middle market companies. BelHealth has a unique combination of investing, executive management, and entrepreneurial experience. BelHealth acquires majority positions in entrepreneur-owned companies that it believes would benefit from its extensive operating and private equity investment expertise. The firm typically invests \$20-50 million per platform company across three core healthcare segments: Services, Products, and Distribution. BelHealth is investing from a \$350 million fund.

**For further information, please visit:**

BelHealth Investment Partners: [www.belhealth.com](http://www.belhealth.com)

American Health Staffing Group: [www.ahsstaffing.com](http://www.ahsstaffing.com)

Thaxton Barabe: [www.thaxtonbarabe.com](http://www.thaxtonbarabe.com)

**Contact:**

BelHealth Investment Partners: Inder Tallur (347) 308-7018

American Health Staffing Group: Mark Smith (877) 309-3546

Thaxton Barabe: Jay Somera (503) 922-2331