

AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

May 22, 2008

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the members of the undersigned hospital organizations, we are writing to express our continued support for the inclusion of the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008* (H.R. 5613) in the final version of the emergency supplemental bill to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (H.R. 2642). This legislation would place a moratorium on seven Medicaid regulations that would cut services to seniors, children and families and those with disabilities, as well as cut payments to safety-net providers. The cost of providing the moratorium to prevent the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) from moving forward with Medicaid rules through March 2009 is fully offset.

Our organizations serve the 57 million Americans that rely on the Medicaid program, as well as the nation's nearly 47 million uninsured citizens. We share the goal of ensuring fiscal integrity in the Medicaid program, but believe the CMS rules go far beyond what is needed for that purpose and will cause significant harm to providers and patients. We firmly believe that implementation of these rules would undermine the already fragile viability of the nation's health care safety-net and reduce or eliminate access to health care services for millions of low-income individuals and the community at large.

The Administration's stated threat to veto H.R. 2642 in its current form, which includes the combined Medicaid moratorium language among other provisions, is disappointing, as a bipartisan majority of Members of Congress have on multiple occasions expressed their support for the moratorium. We urge you to retain H.R. 5613 in the final supplemental appropriations bill and prevent CMS from implementing the Medicaid rules in order to protect safety-net hospitals and their vulnerable patient populations.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Premier, Inc.
VHA Inc.