

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 9, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Billy Tauzin  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas and Chairman Tauzin:


We are committed to preserving access to hospital care for the poor, their families, and the disabled who live in our districts. The House and Senate versions of H.R. 1 contain provisions that will increase funding for Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment relief. The Medicaid DSH program is critical to the fiscal integrity of the hospitals in our districts and to the health care infrastructure that serves all Americans. For this reason, we urge that the conference agreement include the following:

- The House-passed provision which curtails severe cuts to states' Medicaid DSH allotments, as found in Section 1001;
- The Senate-passed provision for "extremely low-DSH states" which increases their Medicaid DSH allotments to 3 percent of Medicaid spending in FY 2004 and FY 2005, as found in Section 602.

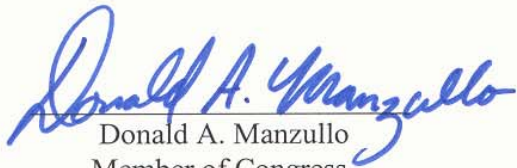
Inclusion of these provisions in the conference report is vital to gaining our support. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and hard work.

Sincerely,

  
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

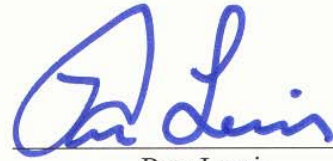
  
Heather Wilson  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Tom Delay  
The Honorable Nancy Johnson  
The Honorable Michael Bilirakis



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Donald A. Manzullo  
Member of Congress




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Ron Lewis  
Member of Congress



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Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress



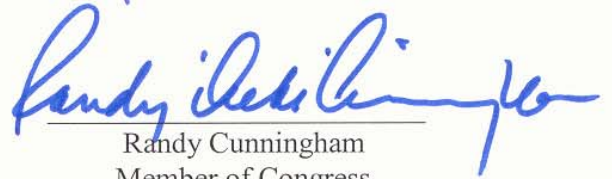
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Michael G. Oxley  
Member of Congress



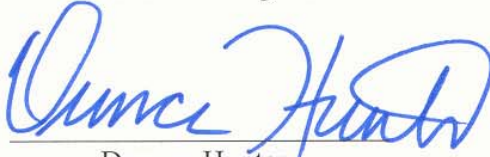
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Steven C. LaTourette  
Member of Congress



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Randy Cunningham  
Member of Congress



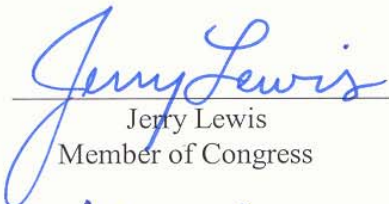
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Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



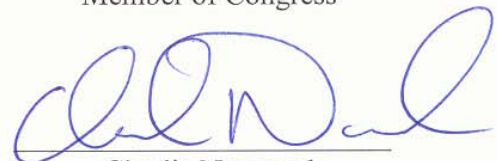
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George R. Nethercutt Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jerry Lewis  
Member of Congress



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Charlie Norwood  
Member of Congress



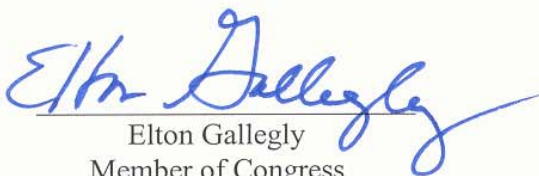
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



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David L. Hobson  
Member of Congress



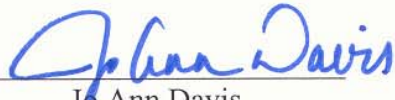
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Elton Gallegly  
Member of Congress



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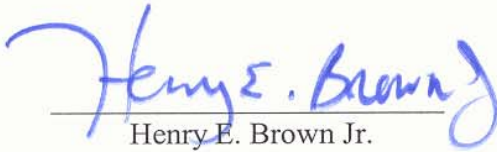
Robert W. Ney  
Member of Congress



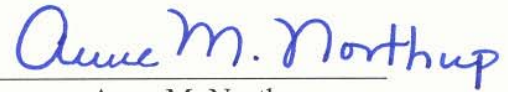
Jo Ann Davis  
Member of Congress



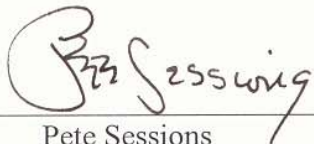
Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



Henry E. Brown Jr.  
Member of Congress



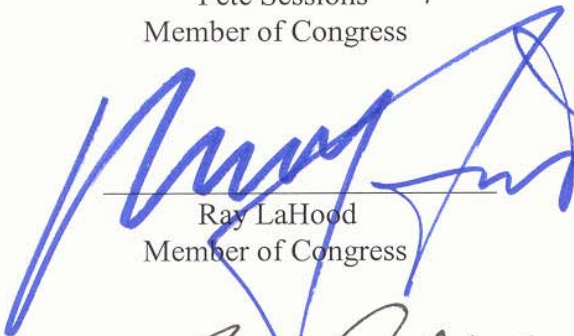
Anne M. Northup  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



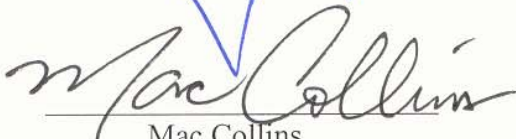
Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress



Ray LaHood  
Member of Congress



Ernie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

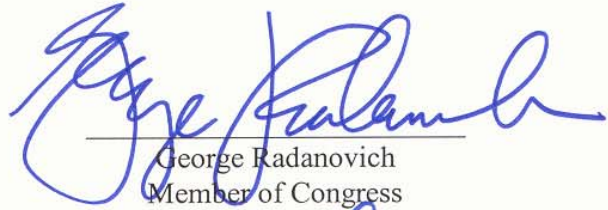


Mac Collins  
Member of Congress

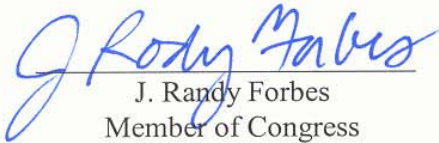




Ron Paul  
Member of Congress



George Radanovich  
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



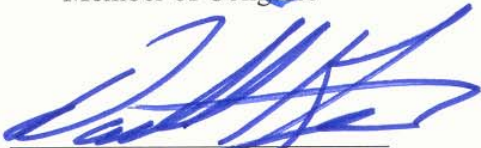
Edward L. Schrock  
Member of Congress



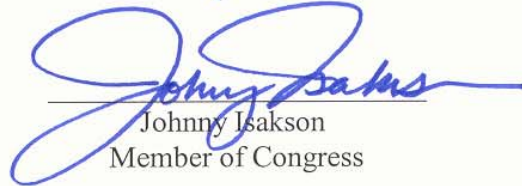
Deborah Pryce  
Member of Congress



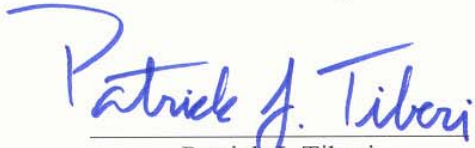
Mary Bono  
Member of Congress



Darrell E. Issa  
Member of Congress



Johnny Isakson  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress