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March 30, 2004

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305

Dear Senator Cornyn:

I am writing on behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) to express our support for your amendment to the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003 that would enable state or local governments, at their discretion, to provide certain health care services to legal and undocumented immigrants.

The AHA represents nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, and other providers of health care.

The AHA has long supported efforts to expand health care coverage to the uninsured and vulnerable populations. We believe that providing health care services is a sound investment. Furthermore, the failure to provide such basic services as immunizations can lead to a greater threat to the general public health of our nation.

Currently, federal law restricts state and local governments from using their own funds to provide certain health care services to legal and undocumented immigrants. We believe your amendment to lift that restriction will result in improved general health for all.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

