



Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

June 4, 2004

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, and other providers of care, the American Hospital System strongly urges you to oppose any legislation that imposes caps on Medicare and Medicaid spending.

The Medicare program is critical to meeting the health care needs of American seniors. It is essential that Medicare always be in a position to appropriately respond to the growing senior population's needs for life-saving medical technologies, drugs, and treatment protocols. Efforts to cap Medicare spending may erode the promise that society has made to the seniors who depend on the program for their care. Likewise, the Medicaid program is a critical element of the health care safety net and the health care infrastructure that serves all Americans. The stability of Medicaid is vital to every American community. In a similar deficit environment, the 1985 Gramm-Rudman legislation and the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 established precedent for treating Medicare and Medicaid spending differently within the context of budget enforcement legislation.

We understand that budget enforcement legislation may be on the House schedule the week of June 7th. Again, we strongly urge you to protect health care for Americans by rejecting any budget enforcement measure that contains Medicare and Medicaid spending caps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rick Pollack'.

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

