



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

August 11, 2004

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States House of Representatives  
2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of our 4,700 hospital, health care system, and other health care provider members, and our 31,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is writing to express our strong support for the Medicaid program, specifically the Medicaid Act of 2004 (H.R. 4961) introduced by you and Rep. Peter King (R-NY). This important legislation recognizes that states are still experiencing ongoing budget shortfalls even with the upturn in the national economy, and provides a temporary extension of the enhanced Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). This increase would ease the sharp falloff of Medicaid funding that occurred with the June 30 expiration of last year's fiscal relief bill.

AHA supports the Medicaid program because hospitals are the ultimate health care safety net for low-income, uninsured and underinsured Americans. And we realize the critical importance of states being able to provide their share of the state-federal funding match in the Medicaid program in order for vulnerable citizens to obtain and retain health care coverage and health services. Your legislation would help by providing to states that maintain their Medicaid eligibility levels an additional \$6 billion in temporary enhanced FMAP. Under your bill, all states would experience a general increase of 1.6 percentage points in FMAP, as well as a temporary freeze for states slated for reductions in their FMAP. This bill will help citizens throughout our nation.

We applaud your leadership on this issue and support enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

