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April 5, 2005

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of our 4,700 hospital, health care system, and other health care provider members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is writing to express our support for your legislation, the *Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005* (S. 347), designed to improve individuals' access to information about their health care options near the end of life should they become unable to make health care decisions for themselves.

Hospitals and health care systems across America do their best to properly educate individuals about all the choices they may face when making end-of-life medical decisions. Your legislation to encourage and pay for seniors to seek such guidance from their physician in advance will increase the likelihood of seniors' use of advance directives and lead to better decision-making.

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

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

