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July 27, 2005

The Honorable John E. Sweeney
U.S. House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

On behalf of our 4,800 hospital, health system and other health care organization members, and our 33,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association is writing in appreciation of your leadership on health care information technology (IT).

Your legislation, "The Future of Healthcare - Granting Access to Innovation in America Act," represents a commendable step toward helping hospitals utilize IT. The bill would improve patient care by providing the kind of financial support that can help hospitals and skilled nursing facilities begin implementing technologies such as computerized physician order entry and electronic medication administration records.

We believe the grant funds in your legislation would be very attractive to hospitals and, as a result, would be fully expended because they are not tied to burdensome and difficult red tape, requirements and conditions.

And we applaud the inclusion of language that holds particular importance for rural communities by targeting funding specifically so those areas can bring the latest technologies to the patients they serve.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to continuing our work with you to improve the quality of care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

