



**American Hospital
Association**

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April 20, 2006

Honorable Pete Hoekstra
United States House of Representatives
2234 House Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Hoekstra:

The American Hospital Association, on behalf of our 4,800 member hospitals, health care systems and other health care organizations, and our 35,000 individual members, commends you for drafting "The Communities Building Access Act."

Millions of uninsured Americans would benefit from the legislation's grants to communities that initiate programs that have been proven to help individuals and families. Among them: multi-share programs for small businesses, and voluntary provider networks for individuals who are not eligible for other types of health care coverage. These models, already in place in many communities, have received high praise from our hospital leaders. A modest federal funding stream, matched by the community, could help stabilize these financially fragile programs for the long term, as well as stimulate new ones.

As a result, we view this bill as a valuable interim solution that can help communities solve the immediate needs of their uninsured populations, while stimulating creative solutions to help inform the national debate on the uninsured. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives on a multi-dimensional national solution to the problem of the uninsured.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President
Advocacy and Public Policy

Cc: Katherine Haley
Legislative Assistant