



April 26, 2007

The Honorable Evan Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senators Bayh, Hatch, and Lincoln:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the National Association of Children's Hospitals (N.A.C.H.), we write to express our support for your efforts to improve the quality of health care for all children.

In particular, we support your legislation, the Children's Health Care Quality Act, which would authorize federal funding for the private sector's development and testing of measures of the quality of children's health care, as well as for demonstrations of new ways to transform health care for children, including their inpatient care. The bill also recognizes the importance of consensus development processes devoted to the approval of evidence-based quality measures and provides funding to support bringing pediatric measures through consensus development.

States and private payers want to use quality measures for children's health care, but children's measure lag far behind those for adult care. States look to the federal government for leadership, because it is the nation's single largest payer of health care for children through Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. However, the Medicaid program currently lacks the authority and cannot commit resources to make quality measurement for children a priority, comparable to the efforts already being made for adult health care under Medicare.

Your legislation addresses those policy gaps by investing in the private sector's identification, testing, consensus review, and demonstration of measures for children.

The nation's hospitals strongly support efforts to measure and improve the quality of health care for all of the patients they serve. Your legislation would make an important contribution to the efforts of providers to improve the quality of care for children.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
AHA Executive Vice President
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