

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 7, 2007

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras  
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20580

The Honorable Thomas Barnett  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Chairman Majoras and Assistant Attorney General Barnett:

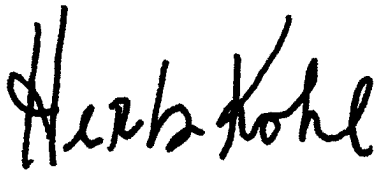
We are writing to urge you to work with the hospital field to develop better guidance for hospitals, physicians and other health care providers on undertaking clinical integration programs that have the potential to significantly improve the quality of care for patients across the nation.

Promoting efforts to improve the quality of health care for all Americans is a goal that all of us share. We appreciate that the Federal Trade Commission has devoted a good deal of attention to the issue of how competition can improve the quality of health care and lower its costs. To that end, the first recommendation in the 2004 FTC/DOJ report on *Improving Health Care: A Dose of Competition* was: "Private payors, governments and providers should experiment further with payment methods for aligning providers' incentives with consumers' interests in lower prices, quality improvements, and innovation." Clinical integration is one such effort that has the potential to achieve these goals for consumers.

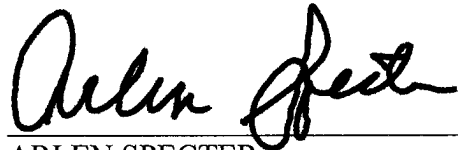
The FTC could make a significant contribution to furthering clinical integration by working with the hospital field to provide guidance to providers who are eager to undertake clinical integration programs. The success of the *Statements of Antitrust Enforcement Policy in Health Care* in addressing providers' concerns about the requirements of the antitrust laws, suggests that a similar effort that is more focused on clinical integration would be of substantial benefit to providers as they explore innovative approaches to improving quality and lowering the cost of health care.

Thank you for interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,



HERB KOHL



ARLEN SPECTER



CHUCK GRASSLEY



RICHARD DURBIN



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE