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October 26, 2007

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 37,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support your legislation, *the Health Promotion FIRST Act (S 866)*, which would provide federal resources to assist in the development and implementation of health, wellness and promotion programs throughout the United States.

*The Health Promotion FIRST Act* reinforces the importance of society's investment in health care, which will reap enormous benefits by making Americans healthier, and more productive, and enabling them to lead fuller lives. Through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and other research entities, the legislation will provide a scientific base of current anecdotal information on the effect that lifestyle choices have on wellness and disease prevention.

Many employers – including hospitals – already recognize that unhealthy behaviors negatively affect employee job performance, leading to absenteeism, lost work time and less productivity. These organizations have introduced wellness and health promotion programs, while providing incentives to quit smoking, classes on effective weight loss strategies, programs to help employees manage chronic conditions and much more.

We appreciate your continued efforts to promote a healthier America and look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pollack  
Executive Vice President

