

March ?, 2008

The Honorable John M. Spratt
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
201 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
B-71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

We are writing to urge the Committee to demonstrate its commitment to Medicare and Medicaid, and the seniors, disabled and children who rely on these programs for their care, by opposing proposed cuts to hospital services in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget Resolution. The nation's full-service community hospitals are the health care safety net for millions of vulnerable people, but face many challenges in providing this care: soaring demand, rising numbers of uninsured, new and costly pharmaceuticals and technologies, labor shortages, staying ready to respond to community-threatening events, whether natural or man-made ... to name just a few.

Despite these challenges, the administration on February 4th released a budget for Fiscal Years 2009 - 2013 that proposes unprecedented cuts: \$182 billion over the next five years to Medicare, and \$17 billion to Medicaid ... a total of nearly \$200 billion in cuts to services that patients and communities rely on. Under Medicare, hospital cuts alone would total a staggering \$135 billion.

Among the many cuts included in the proposal: hospitals' Medicare inpatient and outpatient inflation updates would be eliminated for the next three years, with updates lagging inflation every year thereafter; teaching hospitals would see their Indirect Medical Education (IME) adjustment cut from 5.5 percent to 2.2 percent over three years, a reduction of 60 percent; programs supporting hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of the poor and elderly would be slashed by 30 percent; and programs that are critical to America's rural hospitals would be seriously eroded.

We hope you will reject these proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid spending for hospital services. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

Phil English
Member of Congress

NEAL – ENGLISH / FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET LETTER

House: Reps. Richard Neal (D-MA), Phil English (R-PA)
Status: Closed
Signatures: 265 (184 Democrats, 81 Republicans) ** indicates letter sponsor
Updated: March 5, 2008

ALABAMA

Aderholt, Robert R
Bachus, Spencer R
Cramer, Bud D
Davis, Artur D
Rogers, Mike R

ALASKA

Young, Don R

ARIZONA

Giffords, Gabrielle D

ARKANSAS

Boozman, John R
Ross, Mike D
Snyder, Vic D

CALIFORNIA

Baca, Joe D
Berman, Howard D
Bilbray, Brian R
Bono Mack, Mary R
Cardoza, Dennis D
Capps, Lois D
Costa, Jim D
Davis, Susan D
Eshoo, Anna D
Farr, Sam D
Filner, Bob D
Harman, Jane D
Issa, Darrell R
Matsui, Doris D
McNerney, Jerry D
Miller, George D
Napolitano, Grace D
Nunes, Devin R
Richardson, Laura D
Roybal-Allard, Lucille D
Sanchez, Linda D
Sanchez, Loretta D
Schiff, Adam D
Solis, Hilda D
Tauscher, Ellen D
Thompson, Mike D

Waxman, Henry D
Woolsey, Lynn D

COLORADO

DeGette, Diana D
Perlmutter, Ed D
Salazar, John D
Udall, Mark D

CONNECTICUT

Courtney, Joe D
DeLauro, Rosa D
Larson, John D
Murphy, Chris D
Shays, Chris R

DELAWARE

Castle, Mike R

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

Norton, Eleanor D

FLORIDA

Buchanan, Vern R
Castor, Katherine D
Klein, Ron D
Wasserman-Schultz, Debbie D
Wexler, Robert D
Young, Bill R

GEORGIA

Barrow, John D
Bishop, Sanford D
Gingrey, Phil R
Johnson, Henry D
Lewis, John D
Marshall, Jim D
Price, Tom R
Scott, David D

HAWAII

Abercrombie, Neil D
Hirono, Mazie D

INDIANA

Buyer, Steve R
Donnelly, Joseph D
Hill, Baron D
Visclosky, Peter D

IOWA

Boswell, Leonard D
Braley, Bruce D
Latham, Tom R
Loebsack, Dave D

ILLINOIS

Bean, Melissa D
Biggert, Judy R
Costello, Jerry D
Davis, Danny D
Gutierrez, Luis D
Hare, Phil D
Jackson, Jesse D
Johnson, Tim R
Kirk, Mark R
LaHood, Ray R
Lipinski, Daniel D
Manzullo, Donald R
Rush, Bobby D
Schakowsky, Jan D
Shimkus, John R
Weller, Jerry R

KANSAS

Boyda, Nancy D
Moore, Dennis D
Moran, Jerry R
Tiahrt, Todd R

KENTUCKY

Chandler, Ben D
Davis, Geoffrey R
Lewis, Ron R
Rogers, Harold R
Whitfield, Ed R
Yarmuth, John D

LOUISIANA

Alexander, Rodney R
Jefferson, William D
Melancon, Charlie D

MAINE

Allen, Thomas D
Michaud, Michael D

MASSACHUSETTS

Capuano, Michael D
Delahunt, William D
Frank, Barney D
Lynch, Stephen D
Markey, Ed D
McGovern, Jim D
Neal, Richard D**
Olver, John D
Tierney, John D
Tsongas, Niki D

MARYLAND

Cummings, Elijah D
Ruppersberger, Dutch D
Van Hollen, Chris D

MICHIGAN

Ehlers, Vernon R
Kildee, Dale D
Levin, Sander D
Miller, Candice R
Stupak, Bart D
Upton, Fred R

MINNESOTA

Ellison, Keith D
McCollum, Betty D
Oberstar, James D
Peterson, Collin D
Ramstad, Jim R
Walz, Tim D

MISSOURI

Emerson, JoAnn R
Carnahan, Russ D
Clay, William D
Cleaver, Emanuel D
Graves, Sam R
Skelton, Ike D

MONTANA

Rehberg, Dennis R

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hodes, Paul D
Shea-Porter, Carol D

NEW JERSEY

Ferguson, Mike R
Frelinghuysen, Rodney R
Holt, Rush D
LoBiondo, Frank R
Pallone, Frank D

Pascrell, Bill	D
Payne, Donald	D
Rothman, Steve	D
Saxton, Jim	R
Sires, Albio	D
Smith, Chris	R

NEW MEXICO

Pearce, Steve	R
Udall, Tom	D
Wilson, Heather	R

NEVADA

Berkley, Shelley	D
Heller, Dean	R

NEW YORK

Ackerman, Gary	D
Arcuri, Michael	D
Crowley, Joseph	D
Engel, Eliot	D
Fossella, Vito	R
Gillibrand, Kristen	D
Hall, John	D
Higgins, Brian	D
Israel, Steve	D
King, Peter	R
Kuhl, Randy	R
Lowey, Nita	D
Maurice Hinchey	D
McCarthy, Carolyn	D
McHugh, John	R
McNulty, Michael	D
Meeks, Gregory	D
Nadler, Jerrold	D
Maloney, Carolyn	D
Rangel, Charles	D
Reynolds, Tom	R
Serrano, Jose	D
Slaughter, Louise	D
Towns, Edolphus	D
Velazquez, Nydia	D
Walsh, James	R
Weiner, Anthony	D

NORTH CAROLINA

Butterfield, G.K.	D
Coble, Howard	R
Etheridge, Bob	D
Hayes, Robin	R
McIntyre, Mike	D
Miller, Brad	D
Price, David	D
Shuler, Heath	D

OHIO

Kucinich, Dennis	D
LaTourette, Steve	R
Tubbs-Jones, Stephanie	D
Pryce, Deborah	R
Ryan, Timothy	D
Space, Zach	D
Sutton, Betty	D
Wilson, Charlie	D

OKLAHOMA

Boren, Daniel	D
Fallin, Mary	R
Lucas, Frank	R

OREGON

DeFazio, Peter	D
Hooley, Darlene	D
Wu, David	D

PENNSYLVANIA

Altmire, Jason	D
Brady, Robert	D
Carney, Christopher	D
Dent, Charles	R
Doyle, Mike	D
English, Phil	R**
Fattah, Chaka	D
Gerlach, Jim	R
Kanjorski, Paul	D
Holden, Tim	D
Murtha, John	D
Murphy, Patrick	D
Murphy, Tim	R
Peterson, John	R
Russell-Platts, Todd	R
Schwartz, Allyson	D
Sestak, Joe	D
Shuster, Bill	R

RHODE ISLAND

Langevin, James	D
Kennedy, Patrick	D

SOUTH CAROLINA

Brown, Henry	R
Wilson, Joe	R

SOUTH DAKOTA

Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie	D
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TENNESSEE

Cohen, Stephen	D
Davis, David	R

Duncan, John	R
Gordon, Bart	D
Tanner, John	D
Wamp, Zack	R

TEXAS

Cuellar, Henry	D
Doggett, Lloyd	D
Edwards, Chet	D
Gonzalez, Charles	D
Granger, Kay	R
Green, Gene	D
Hall, Ralph	R
Ortiz, Solomon	D
Paul, Ron	R
Reyes, Silvestre	D
Rodriguez, Ciro	D

UTAH

Bishop, Rob	R
Matheseon, Jim	D

VERMONT

Welch, Peter	D
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VIRGINIA

Boucher, Rick	D
Davis, Tom	R
Goode, Virgil	R
Goodlatte, Robert	R
Moran, James	D
Scott, Bobby	D

WASHINGTON

Dicks, Norman	D
Hastings, Doc	R
Inslee, Jay	D
Larsen, Rick	D
McMorris-Rodgers, Cathy	R
Reichert, Dave	R
Smith, Adam	D

WEST VIRGINIA

Capito, Shelley Moore	R
Mollohan, Alan	D
Rahall, Nick	D

WISCONSIN

Baldwin, Tammy	D
Kind, Ron	D
Moore, Gwen	D