



American Hospital
Association

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April 21, 2008

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, and other health care organizations, and our 37,000 individual members, I am writing to express our strong support for the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008* (H.R. 5613). We urge you to vote for the bill when it comes to the House floor this week.

Over the past year, new policy regulations have been issued that would hurt the ability of Medicaid beneficiaries to get the care they need, for example by limiting their access to hospital and school-based clinics, case management and immunization services. The *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008* will allow Congress more time to assess the regulations' significant changes to the way states finance their Medicaid programs by placing a moratorium, through March 2009, on seven of the regulations. According to the Congressional Budget Office, nearly \$20 billion in funding over a five-year period is at stake, and Congress can protect Medicaid beneficiaries and state governments from the harmful effects of the regulations by halting their implementation.

The solution to Medicaid's problems is not harsh spending cuts. Rather, the program deserves a thoughtful, deliberative reform process that ensures that the nation meets its obligation to care for the neediest of our society.

Thank you for supporting the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008*.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

