



Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

June 3, 2008

The Honorable John M. Spratt
Chairman
House Budget Committee
United States House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA), I want to commend the House and Senate Budget conferees for rejecting the Administration's proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts to hospitals in its fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget conference report. The AHA represents nearly 5,000 hospitals and health care systems, and 37,000 individual members.

By rejecting proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts for hospitals, the Budget Conference Committee recognizes the serious challenges hospitals face. At a time when the number of uninsured individuals is rising, Medicare and Medicaid currently reimburse hospitals for less than the cost of providing health care services. At the same time, hospitals need to make significant investments to continue their mission, including improving information technology systems to address patient safety and quality of care, and preparing to respond to emergencies ranging from natural disasters to pandemic diseases or to the threat of terrorism.

We applaud the FY 2009 Budget conference report and appreciate your efforts to resist proposals to reduce payments for hospital services provided to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

