



American Hospital
Association

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June 24, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Dear Representative Rangel:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 members hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 37,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) wishes to express its support for H.R. 6331, the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008*.

We commend the sponsors of this legislation for ensuring that physicians will not experience the scheduled 10.6 percent reduction in payments on July 1. This payment cut would have been unsustainable for both physician providers and hospitals. H.R. 6311 also includes important extensions of critical programs for rural communities and hospitals, including 18-month extensions of special treatment for Medicare billing for certain pathology services, reclassifications for Section 508 hospitals and FLEX grants for rural communities.

In addition, H.R. 6311 contains several new provisions of importance to hospitals. We are particularly pleased with the inclusion of re-basing for Sole Community Hospitals, clarification of policies for Critical Access Hospital laboratory payments, and increased Medicare payments for ground ambulance service in rural areas.

Again, we applaud your efforts and are pleased to support H.R. 6331. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

