



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

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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 support your amendment to the health care privacy section of H.R. 1, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which would protect the quality assurance activities of our nation's hospitals.

Hospitals must be able to make appropriate use of patients' medical information to continually improve the care they deliver. Activities like infection surveillance, disease management, and care coordination are essential and could be adversely affected if patient information were de-identified or if prior written consent were required for each quality activity.

Thank you for offering this important amendment to allow hospitals to continue monitoring and improving their quality of care and patient safety.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

