



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

February 5, 2009

The Honorable Herbert Kohl
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 38,000 individual members, I am writing to voice our support for your amendment to the health care privacy section of H.R. 1, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which would make important improvements in the accounting for disclosures provision.

This accounting for disclosures provision, as written, places an enormous reporting burden on hospitals. Your amendment would require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to consider the cost of compliance with this provision in promulgating regulations to guide hospitals. Moreover, your amendment would provide needed flexibility in application of the effective dates for moving to this expanded reporting, a necessary addition given the schedule for developing standards and issuing regulations.

Thank you for your understanding of the complexity of this provision and your willingness to offer this important amendment.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

