



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

February 9, 2008

The Honorable Leonard Boswell  
United States House of Representatives  
1427 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Boswell:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 38,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support H.R. 362, the Rural Hospital Assistance Act of 2009, and applauds your commitment to America's rural health care providers.

Today's difficult economic times are having a direct impact on the ability of people to get the health care they need. Congress recognizes that it is important to ensure that people can access care, and your continued support of those providing care especially in rural areas is greatly appreciated.

By allowing Medicare-dependent hospitals to use the non wage-adjusted rate and a low-volume adjustment for Medicare inpatient services, you are helping support access to care in many rural communities.

And by creating a prospective ban on physician self-referral to hospitals in which the physician has an ownership interest, you are ensuring that decisions about patient care are made based on a patient's needs, not on a physician's financial considerations.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

