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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA), our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health care systems and other providers of care, and our 38,000 individual members, I am writing to express our support for S. 683, the *Community Choice Act of 2009*.

America's hospitals are committed to providing quality care to the patients and communities they serve. Part of that commitment means providing care in the most appropriate setting. For some patients, the most appropriate setting may not be a hospital or long-term care facility, such as a nursing home. Rather, the best place may be their home, where they can be among family and friends.

The *Community Choice Act of 2009* would make important changes in how long-term care is delivered by state Medicaid programs, by allowing patients the choice to receive care without being placed in an institutional setting. The grants that would help states develop and implement community-based attendant services, and the demonstration project to enhance coordination of care for those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, could provide new insights into the best ways to provide community-based care. The AHA supports the important Medicaid reforms promoted by the *Community Choice Act of 2009*.

We look forward to working with you to enact this legislation. Please contact Megan Cundari at (202) 626-2268 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

