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September 25, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health care systems and other health care organizations, and our 40,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association wishes to express our support for the *Women's Hospitals Education Equity Act*, which would provide graduate medical education funding to women's hospitals specializing in obstetric care.

Women's hospitals with teaching programs educate and train physicians who will care for women at all stages of their lives. Medicare graduate medical education payments, however, are based only on the share of all discharges attributable to Medicare patients. Thus, women's hospitals that focus on obstetrical care see much smaller Medicare graduate medical education support than other teaching hospitals with similarly-sized teaching programs.

Your bill would remedy this inequity by creating a small pool of dedicated funding directed to those women's hospitals that generally concentrate on obstetrical care, operate approved medical residency training programs and serve a small population of Medicare patients.

We look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

