



**American Hospital  
Association**

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The Honorable Kay Hagan  
United States Senate  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA), our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our nearly 40,000 individual members, I am writing to support your legislation, S. 3596, *The Culture of Safety Hospital Accountability Act*.

This legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a study, and subsequently begin a demonstration program, to provide support for establishing cooperative approaches between hospitals, state health care agencies and HHS to promote and implement the best practices for quality assurance, patient safety and performance improvement. The goal would be to improve the safety and quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries and enhance compliance with the Conditions of Participation for hospitals under Medicare.

When a hospital participates in any quality or safety improvement activity, it is critical that there be a supportive organizational culture to ensure that the program is successfully executed. Similarly, it is important that those who oversee the quality of care on behalf of the public understand and support the work of the organization in building and maintaining a culture of safety. Both the hospital and those who provide patient safety oversight, such as the state surveyors, must work together to improve quality and safety in our institutions. This collaboration will be essential to achieving the promise of health care reform.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you to advance your legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

