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August 5, 2010

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
313 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA), our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, and other health care organizations, and our 40,000 individual members, I am writing to offer our strong support for the Electronic Health Records Incentives for Multi-Campus Hospitals Act of 2010.

The AHA appreciates and shares the goals of Congress in providing incentives for hospitals to move further and faster in using electronic health record (EHR) technology to improve all aspects of care delivery.

We applaud today's action that would make clear the intent of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, passed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to provide payment incentives in an equitable way to individual hospitals that are part of multi-campus hospital systems. Providing these payments to only one hospital in a multi-hospital system would not accurately account for the implementation and training costs of EHRs across different institutions; nor would it accurately reflect differences in clinical services provided at different sites.

This bill would ensure that payments would be available to all hospitals in a multi-campus system, and that these hospitals could choose the calculation that would best meet the needs of their institutions and communities, either through additional base payments or additional per-discharge amounts.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

