



**American Hospital
Association**

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September 13, 2010

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman Emeritus
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 40,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to express our support for H.R. 6095, legislation to ensure community hospitals are able to provide quality durable medical equipment (DME) services to the patients they serve.

As you may recall, the *Medicare Modernization Act of 2003* directed the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish a competitive bidding process for DME, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies to reduce Medicare's costs for these products and services. While Congress temporarily delayed this program when it passed the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008*, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010* reinstated the program and expanded it to 21 additional metropolitan statistical areas.

The AHA remains concerned that, as this program moves forward, patient care could suffer if community hospitals do not have the ability to provide these important services to their patients. H.R. 6095 would permit hospitals to accept the competitively bid price without participating in the competitive bidding process. In addition, H.R. 6095 would allow hospitals to continue to directly provide equipment and supplies to their patients during a hospital stay and upon discharge to their homes and communities.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of America's hospitals. We look forward to continuing our work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

