American Hospital Association

Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100 Phone
www.aha.org

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our more than 42,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) enthusiastically supports the nomination of Marilyn Tavenner to serve as administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

As acting administrator, Marilyn has demonstrated that she is willing to listen to, learn from and work in partnership with the nation's health care providers. She has worked to reduce red tape and regulatory burden to ensure that more providers' time and resources are spent on caring for patients. She also has spearheaded the Partnership for Patients initiative, which through its Hospital Engagement Network, has helped hospitals and health systems dramatically lower infection rates. In addition, she has pioneered new payment methods that offer opportunities to provide better patient-centered care more efficiently.

Marilyn's varied and rich background as a nurse, health care executive and government official at the state and national levels gives her a unique perspective on health care and the challenges facing health care providers at this critical time. Prior to joining CMS in 2010 as principal deputy administrator, Marilyn served as secretary of health and human resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. She previously spent most of her career with HCA, starting as a staff nurse and becoming CEO of two hospitals and then group president of outpatient services.

Marilyn has established herself as a very capable leader of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The AHA is very pleased to support Marilyn's nomination and looks forward to continuing our work with her to improve health care in America.

Sincerely,

Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO