



**American Hospital
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October 17, 2014

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 43,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association is pleased to support H.R. 5539, legislation to exempt certain journals and text books used in continuing medical education (CME) from manufacturer transparency reporting requirements.

CME provides support for ongoing education to help physicians address gaps in their professional practice. Participation in CME helps physicians meet requirements for maintenance of licensure, maintenance of specialty board certification, credentialing, membership in professional societies and other professional privileges. More than 2,000 accredited CME providers offer over 125,000 activities to more than 20 million physicians, ranging from live meetings and regularly scheduled series such as grand rounds, to performance improvement projects and medical journals. Many hospitals, as part of their offerings for physicians, sponsor CME-granting programs.

The Physician Payment Sunshine Act, or “Sunshine Act,” requires manufacturers of covered drugs, devices, biologicals and medical supplies to disclose certain payments or other transfers of value to physicians and teaching hospitals. The Sunshine Act includes an explicit exception in the reporting requirements for payments to physicians for CME when certain safeguards are in place to prevent a direct financial relationship between the physician and the manufacturer or pharmaceutical company. Your legislation would add an exception for specific education materials, such as peer-reviewed journals, journal reprints, journal supplements and medical textbooks. This exclusion is important to ensure that physicians continue to have access to materials that will contribute to their ongoing medical training.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

