



**American Hospital
Association®**

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November 24, 2014

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

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 appreciates your introduction of S. 2942, legislation to establish a hospital fund to stand-up regional treatment centers for patients with Ebola or other specified infectious diseases.

America's hospitals are dedicated to the health and safety of every patient and health care worker and have joined together with physicians and nurses to work to protect patients and caregivers from Ebola. Over the past several months, hospitals across the country have been preparing their facilities to care for Ebola patients, and they continue to update their preparedness activities, incurring additional costs as Ebola guidance evolves. Costs associated with preparation include facility construction, renovation of space to provide isolation capacity, the purchase of costly equipment and personal protective equipment, extensive staff training, exercises and drilling, development of clinical treatment protocols and lost revenue from taking existing beds out of service for standby capacity.

In addition to preparation costs, those hospitals that have cared for Ebola patients have incurred extensive costs to provide that care. Providing care involves staffing an Ebola team and backfilling with staff from other units, waste disposal, laboratory services, additional personal protective equipment, environmental cleaning, decontamination and security. We are pleased that S. 2942 provides for lost revenue from other patients and physicians cancelling hospital services as this is a cost that is often unrecognized.

All of America's hospitals are incurring costs to fight the battle against Ebola. We believe S. 2942 recognizes the need in providing resources to ensure we win the fight. We stand ready to work with you and the Congress to enhance the safety of every patient, health care worker and community in America.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

