



**American Hospital  
Association®**

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May 19, 2016

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 43,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to endorse your resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2016. Your resolution is consistent with the vision of the AHA: a society of healthy communities, where all individuals reach their highest potential for health.

However, persistent racial and ethnic health disparities result in disproportionate disease burdens and premature deaths for far too many Americans, as well as billions of dollars in unnecessary costs to the entire health care system. We recognize that to close gaps in treatment and outcomes, guaranteeing health insurance coverage alone is not sufficient; it must be accompanied by a focus on health equity. Our member hospitals and health systems strive every day to eradicate these disparities through data collection and analysis, improving cultural competency and addressing the social determinants of health – steps that we believe are necessary to improve the health and health status of all communities. To that end, we join you in recognizing the significance of National Minority Health Month in raising awareness and rededicating efforts to achieve health equity in our nation, and we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

