



**American Hospital
Association®**

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April 24, 2017

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 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, 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 2017. Your resolution is consistent with the vision of the AHA: a society of healthy communities, where all individuals reach their highest potential for health.

As the AHA works to preserve health insurance coverage for millions of Americans, we are mindful that, even after adjusting for coverage, stark disparities in health care and health status between racial and ethnic groups persist. We believe that commitment to health equity is necessary to eliminate these disparities. Our member hospitals and health systems are working toward that goal by increasing data collection and analysis, improving cultural competency, and addressing the social determinants of health. We thank you for calling attention to the urgency of this issue and for your leadership in recognizing the significance of National Minority Health Month.

Sincerely,

//s//

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President

