



PRESIDENT BUSH'S TOP ADVISOR VISITS IOWA

Welcome to Iowa, Karl Rove

Our Hospitals Need Help

Karl Rove, President Bush's top political advisor, is speaking at a Saturday night dinner in Des Moines.

We know he'll give a great speech. But we also hope Mr. Rove has the time to listen to an urgent message from Iowa citizens and their hospitals.

Iowa hospitals now sustain about \$70 million a year in losses treating Medicare patients. And on October 1, *additional* cutbacks in Medicare funding took effect, making the crisis in Iowa's hospitals even worse.

Because of shortfalls in Medicare reimbursements, Iowa hospitals are under intense pressure to make ends meet.

When President Bush was here in September he promised to "come up with a bipartisan effort to make sure this important program, Medicare, works for the senior citizens of the State of Iowa."

Yet even though President Bush's director of the federal office that oversees Medicare has acknowledged that one-third of the nation's hospitals face huge losses, he said, "I do not believe, and the administration does not believe, that (hospital losses) are a national problem."

Tens of millions of losses in Iowa alone not a problem? Tell that to Iowa seniors.

The President can help by supporting legislation now before Congress providing substantial Medicare payment improvements — at least at the level included in H.R. 4954 or S. 3018 — for America's hospitals and the patients and communities they serve.

Our hospitals need help. Now.

Mr. Rove, urge President Bush to help Iowa hospitals.

