



American Hospital
Association

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Action Alert!

Thursday, October 25, 2007

NEED ACTION FROM *Hospital leaders*
ACTION *Urge your House member to sign
Tubbs Jones/Porter letter to IRS*
WHEN *Immediately*
HOW *Call or e-mail your representative*
WHY *Only one week left to show support for
full-value reporting for hospitals*

ONE WEEK TO GO – 104 SIGNATURES COLLECTED

Has your representative signed the House IRS letter?

As of today, 104 members of the House of Representatives have signed a letter urging the IRS to improve the new Schedule H reporting form for tax-exempt hospitals by including the full value of community benefits hospitals provide, including Medicare shortfalls and bad debt, and eliminating reporting burdens unrelated to compliance. The letter, spearheaded by Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) and Jon Porter (R-NV), will be sent to the IRS on November 1, *one week from today*.

A list of those who have already signed the letter is attached. If your legislator is not among them, please contact his or her office today and urge them to sign.

The AHA has asked the IRS to address numerous concerns with the draft forms, particularly the reporting burdens and the failure to allow Medicare underpayments and patient bad debt to be reported as part of a hospital's community benefit. The Tubbs Jones/Porter letter echoes these concerns, so it is important that we help secure as many signatures as possible.

Why is full-value reporting critical? Some in Washington want to impose a rigid threshold - at least 5% of expenses going to community benefit - for hospitals to retain their tax-exempt status. Schedule H could become the platform for policymakers at all levels of government to make their own judgments about how much community benefit is sufficient and what fines or other penalties a tax-exempt hospital would face for failing to meet a particular percentage threshold. That is why it is essential that Schedule H reflect the full value of the benefits hospitals provide to their communities.

***(Call 1-877-242-2240 or e-mail AHAadvocacy@aha.org
to let us know how your Hill contacts go ... thanks!)***