



# More Than Health Care



In challenging times, hospitals remain a bedrock source of jobs and economic growth in America's communities.

- Community hospitals directly employ more than **five million** people.
- Hospitals support one in ten of **all** American private sector jobs, through direct employment and the purchase of goods and services from local businesses.
- Hospitals are the **single largest employer** in most rural communities, and among the top ten employers in major metropolitan areas.
- In 2007, **45% of all new private sector jobs** were created in the health care sector.
- Overall, hospitals support \$1.9 **trillion** in economic activity.

However, the economic crisis is taking its toll on patients, communities and hospitals alike. Here are five steps Congress can take now to ensure that hospitals can continue providing the services their communities and patients need. Because, if hospitals suffer, communities suffer.

- Rescind CMS payment cuts to teaching hospitals. These cuts eliminate the indirect medical education adjustment, cutting \$1.3 billion to teaching hospitals over five years;
- Agree to a moratorium on CMS cuts to Medicaid outpatient services, which would narrow the definition and scope of these services and could reduce hospitals' Medicaid funding by \$2 billion over five years;
- Increase FMAP, the federal Medicaid matching rate, to help offset dramatic cuts states may implement due to the weakened economy;
- Ban self-referral to physician-owned hospitals and grandfather existing facilities with appropriate growth limitations;
- Protect employees by easing the adverse impact of the credit crisis on employers in meeting obligations of defined benefit pension plans they sponsor;
- Strengthen federal hospital capital financing assistance programs.

## America's Hospitals:

Caring for Patients and Strengthening Our Communities.



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