



**American Hospital
Association**

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Action Alert!

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

NEED ACTION FROM *Hospital leaders*
ACTION *Ask your U.S. representative to sign letter to Obama Administration*
WHEN *Immediately*
HOW *Call or e-mail your representative*
WHY *Include hospital issues in economic recovery package*

Need signatures on House letter urging President-elect to include hospital issues in economic recovery package

The first priority of the Obama Administration when it takes office in two weeks is to enact an economic recovery package. Reps. Robert Brady (D-PA) and Joe Wilson (R-SC) are asking their House colleagues to sign a letter urging the President-elect to include relief for hospitals in the plan. Has your representative signed? The letter cites the “necessity of maintaining the economic health of our nation’s hospitals” and notes that hospitals are among the nation’s largest employers – 5 million jobs nationwide.

Specifically, the letter calls on the new Administration to:

- Increase resources and flexibility in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 242 program;
- Invest immediately in health care information and technology systems;
- Grant hospitals access to federal government loan guarantees for construction, renovation and upgrades; and
- Place under moratoria two current rules: the Medicaid hospital outpatient rule and the Medicare indirect medical education capital payment cut.

Other Advocacy Actions

The steps outlined in the Brady-Wilson letter are among several specific actions Congress and the new Administration can take to ensure hospitals can continue providing the care their communities need. These steps are

outlined further in a special AHA legislative proposal that was shared today with every senator and representative's office on Capitol Hill. To read the AHA's proposal – which echoes many of the principles outlined in *Health for Life*, the hospital field's framework for health care reform – click [here](#).

Also, during the next few weeks, the AHA will be running an ad in key Washington print and online publications, backing up your efforts to urge representatives to sign the letter. To view the ad, click [here](#).

Including these key hospital issues in the economic recovery package is critical to preserving hospitals' financial health so they can serve patients at a time when demand for health care services is soaring. You will find the text of the Brady-Wilson letter, with the current list of representatives who have signed, attached.

If your legislator has not already signed the Brady-Wilson letter, please contact him or her and urge them to sign immediately!