



**American Hospital  
Association®**

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**AHA STATEMENT ON DSH REDUCTION RELIEF ACT OF 2013**

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We are pleased to support the DSH Reduction Relief Act of 2013 introduced today by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

The Medicaid and Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) programs have provided vital financial support to hospitals that serve the most vulnerable populations – Medicaid beneficiaries, low-income Medicare beneficiaries, the uninsured and the underinsured – since their inception in the early 1980s.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) contains reductions to the DSH programs based on the assumption that many of the uninsured and underinsured would receive coverage under the law. However, the Supreme Court's decision that the federal government could not compel states to expand their Medicaid programs has negatively impacted projected health insurance coverage.

The DSH Reduction Relief Act of 2013 will help hospitals and the patients they serve by delaying the Medicaid and Medicare DSH funding cuts for two years. This will allow for coverage expansions to be more fully realized.

In a time of increased financial pressures and uncertainty, maintaining vital DSH payments will help ensure that hospitals will be able to provide care for their patients and communities. We look forward to working with Congress to advance this important legislation.

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