



**American Hospital
Association®**

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AHA STATEMENT ON S. 1555

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We are pleased to support Senator Roger Wicker's (R-MS) bill, S. 1555, to delay for two years funding cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid Disproportionate Share (DSH) programs. The coverage expansion is just beginning and hospitals will continue to care for a large number of uninsured patients. Delaying the DSH cuts will help ensure that hospitals that serve high volumes of uninsured patients can continue to provide needed services to their communities.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) contains reductions to the DSH programs based on the assumption that many of the uninsured 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.

Maintaining DSH payments is vital to hospitals that care for the uninsured. We look forward to working with Congress to delay the reductions and provide vital support for hospitals that serve the most vulnerable.

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