

August 23, 2018

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 individuals who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) supports Amendment #3787 to the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. America's hospitals believe your amendment will help address the out-of-control cost of prescription drugs.

We are writing to urge all members of the Senate to include Amendment #3787, offered by Sens. Dick Durbin and Chuck Grassley, in the Senate's Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This amendment would provide funding to enable HHS to require disclosure of drug pricing information in direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising. DTC advertising has the potential to lead to overutilization of high-cost prescription drugs, including when lower-cost but equally effective options may be available. This is contributing to the unsustainable rate of growth in prescription drug spending, which is consuming a bigger portion of health care dollars each year. Requiring disclosure of drug pricing information in DTC advertising will meaningfully enhance drug pricing transparency and provide useful information for consumers as they engage in discussions with their providers about the best treatment options for their individual health care needs. Thus, the AHA strongly supports and urges inclusion of Amendment #3787 in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

We look forward to continuing to work with Congress and the Administration on bipartisan, patient-centric solutions to make life-saving medications affordable and available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

