



Contact: Marie Watteau, (202) 626-2351

STATEMENT ON PAYROLL TAX-SGR CONFERENCE REPORT

**Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association**

February 16, 2012

While we support ensuring that physicians will not see their Medicare payments reduced, we are extremely disappointed that once again Congress is putting seniors' access to hospital services in jeopardy through arbitrary reductions to hospitals.

Today's proposal would add an unnecessary strain to hospitals that care for vulnerable populations. It limits therapy services provided in hospitals and assistance that helps defray Medicare and Medicaid costs to low-income seniors. This is shortsighted and overlooks the critical role hospitals play in supporting a broad range of services to the elderly.

While we are pleased a number of expiring hospital provisions were extended, we need to ensure that all of the policies are maintained for the remainder of 2012.

We need thoughtful approaches to improving health care not indiscriminate cuts that harm patients' access to care.

###