

## AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leaders McConnell and Boehner:

On behalf of the members of the undersigned hospital organizations, we are writing to express our continued support for the inclusion of a moratorium on seven Medicaid regulations in the final conference version of *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (H.R. 1).

The House version of H.R. 1 contains an extension of the moratorium on six Medicaid regulations, including those that impact hospitals most directly: cost limits on public providers, graduate medical education (GME) and provider taxes. We appreciate that this moratorium, which will expire March 31, has been extended until June 30. In addition, we are very pleased that the rule related to Medicaid hospital outpatient payments, which took effect December 8, will be covered under the extension of the moratorium. If allowed to move forward, these regulations will have significant negative consequences for the vulnerable population served by Medicaid.

We ask that the Medicaid moratorium language be included as part of the final legislative package that is under negotiation between the House and Senate conferees. This moratorium will allow Congress and the Obama administration more time to assess these significant changes to the way states finance their Medicaid programs.

We thank you for your attention to this issue of great importance to America's hospitals.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Federation of American Hospitals  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems