AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

February 10, 2014

Dear Representative:

America's hospitals strongly oppose a proposal to cut funding for seniors' Medicare to pay for an extension of the debt limit. While we do not oppose the extension of the debt limit, we *do* oppose using Medicare reductions to pay for non-Medicare related spending.

Medicare has been cut time and time again – most recently under the budget agreement signed into law in December. Medicare is meant to assure seniors access to needed medical care, not serve as a piggybank for other programs. It is bad policy to further extend Medicare sequester cuts that could undermine care for seniors.

Hospitals already face $113 billion in cuts that have been imposed over the last three years at a time of enormous change and challenges. We urge you to reject this proposal, which will jeopardize health services for seniors.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospitals Association
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
Premier Healthcare Alliance
VHA Inc.