Federation of American Hospitals®

Charles N. Kahn III
President and CEO

March 28, 2014

Majority Leader Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) and our more than 1000 hospitals nationwide urge the United States Senate to pass the *Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014* (H.R. 4302). Access to critical health care for our seniors is paramount and H.R. 4302 would provide important predictability for hospitals, physicians and, most importantly, seniors who depend on the Medicare program to meet its promise.

The FAH continues to strongly support a bipartisan compromise on legislation to permanently repeal and replace the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) that avoids any further cuts to hospitals. We would have preferred that a comprehensive SGR overhaul was enacted prior to the April 1 deadline. However, it does not appear that this alternative will happen, and to not act now on this patch would adversely impact seniors and the hospitals and physicians that care for them, an outcome we must avoid.

H.R. 4302 is a strong bill that provides certainty of access, and also extends critically important rural hospital extenders, without which many rural hospitals run the risk of diminished access and, in some cases, closure. In addition, the bill contains a much needed one year extension to FY17 of the current suspension of the ACA Medicaid DSH cut. It also provides welcome additional relief for hospitals by extending both the current moratorium against enforcement of the two-midnight rule by recovery audit contractors, and the implementation date for ICD-10.

We applaud the House for passage of this legislation and urge the Senate to follow suit.

Sincerely,

cc: Chairman Ron Wyden
Ranking Member Orrin Hatch
Speaker John Boehner
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi