AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

April 21, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As organizations representing hospitals and health systems across the country, we are writing to express our opposition to the inclusion of Medicare sequestration cuts to offset the cost of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. While we do not have concerns with the continuation of the TAA program, we strongly object to any additional hospital Medicare cuts to pay for it.

We understand that the current proposal to fund the TAA would include an extension of the sequestration on Medicare payments into the second half of 2024. This is unacceptable. Hospitals are already facing more than $121 billion in cuts imposed since 2010, and are projected to experience this year the lowest Medicare margin – negative 9% — ever recorded.

We urge you strike the language that would impose additional Medicare sequestration cuts to offset the TAA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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