Federation of American Hospitals®

Charles N. Kahn III
President and CEO

June 11, 2015

Speaker John Boehner
U.S. Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
U.S. Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 201515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the Federation of the American Hospitals and our more than 1000 investor-owned or managed community hospitals and health systems throughout the United States, I write to express our support and appreciation for your efforts to eliminate the Medicare sequester increase and extension as part of the trade package.

The FAH strongly supports Section 603 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (H.R. 1295) which would strike the Medicare sequester as an offset to this legislation. This is an important fix which would strengthen the Medicare program for seniors and the hospitals they depend upon.

Further, should H.R. 1295 pass the House, we applaud the recently announced agreement that provides for the privileged consideration of this fix in the Senate. We respectfully urge the Congress to move forward with this entire agreement which would ensure swift consideration in the Senate.

Since 2010, more than $140 billion in cumulative cuts have been imposed on hospitals. These continued cuts jeopardize the ability of hospitals to deliver the care seniors expect and deserve, and the health care security all Americans count on hospitals to provide. The cuts hospitals must already absorb contributes to record-low Medicare hospital margins, projected by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) to reach negative nine percent this year.

Additional Medicare cuts to hospitals are ill-advised, bad public policy, and sets a terrible precedent. That is why we applaud the House Leadership effort to eliminate the Medicare sequester cut in this trade package.

We are thankful for your efforts to protect critical Medicare funding for hospitals which will ensure seniors have access to the care they need, when they need it.

Sincerely,



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