



## AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Nelson, Schumer and Reid:

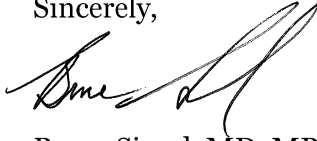
On behalf of America's Essential Hospitals – the leading champion for hospitals and health systems dedicated to high-quality care for all, including the most vulnerable - I would like to extend our support for **S. 1148, the Resident Physician Reduction Shortage Act of 2015.**

America's Essential Hospitals is committed to training the nation's future health care leaders. In fiscal year 2013, our more than 250 member hospitals trained on average 254 physicians per hospital, which is 14 times as many as those trained at other U.S. teaching hospitals. Additionally, 41 percent of essential hospitals train 25 or more full-time residents above their graduate medical education (GME) caps, whereas only 11 percent of other teaching hospitals train 25 or more residents above their caps – this is indicative of the teaching commitment of essential hospitals.

Essential hospitals experience firsthand the difficulties associated with residency shortages as well as lack of funding for new residency slots. The Resident Physician Reduction Shortage Act seeks to eliminate the stress placed on essential hospitals which maintain a strong teaching commitment, despite funding shortfalls. This bill will increase residency slots by 15,000 over five years and give priority to hospitals that operate above their caps. This legislation would make great strides in ensuring that the physician workforce continues to grow and teaching hospitals, particularly public and non-profit hospitals, are able to maintain their commitment to training the next generation of health care professionals.

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing support for hospitals. We look forward to working with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Siegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bruce Siegel, MD. MPH  
President and CEO  
America's Essential Hospitals