



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

The Honorable Pat Tiberi
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott, MD
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tiberi and Rep. McDermott:

On behalf of America's Essential Hospitals and its 275 member hospitals and health systems, I write in support of including the Establishing Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmission Program Act (H.R. 1343) as a provision of H.R. 5273, the Helping Hospitals Improve Patient Care Act.

We thank Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH) for his sponsorship of H.R. 1343 and his tireless advocacy. This legislation would help ensure that the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) does not unfairly penalize hospitals that care for large numbers of minority and other vulnerable patients. Essential hospitals commit to providing high-quality care to all and disproportionately serve the most vulnerable. But while our hospitals successfully provide effective care to those in greatest need and improve patient outcomes, they cannot change many of the socioeconomic factors that impact a patient's health. As a result, some patients are readmitted despite the high quality of care they received previously. This legislation would ensure essential hospitals that provide a high volume of care to individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are not disproportionately penalized under the HRRP.

We also thank Rep. Elliot Engel (D-NY) for serving as the Democratic leader on this bill and these Ways and Means co-sponsors: Reps. Diane Black (R-TN), Charles Boustany (R-LA), Bob Dold (R-IL), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Patrick Meehan (R-PA), Charles Rangel (D-NY), and Jason Smith (R-MO).

Thank you for including in H.R. 5273 socioeconomic risk adjustment for the HRRP and for seeking committee action on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you and the committee on issues that impact essential hospitals.

Sincerely,

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President and CEO

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