



**American Hospital
Association**

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March 31, 2011

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our nearly 40,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to express our support for the *Health Care Bureaucrats Elimination Act* (S. 668), legislation to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), and your continued leadership on this issue.

As you know, IPAB, created by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, is a commission appointed by the president and empowered to establish reimbursement rates for the Medicare program. America's hospitals support the repeal of IPAB, because its existence permanently removes Congress from the decision-making process, and threatens the important dialogue between hospitals and their elected officials about how hospitals can continue to provide the highest quality care to their patients and communities.

Already, America's hospitals are paid less than the cost of treating Medicare patients, and although hospitals will not be subject to IPAB decisions until 2020, we are deeply concerned that removing elected officials from the decision-making process could result in even deeper cuts to the Medicare program in the future.

Again, we are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President

