

## AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

January 13, 2014

Dear Senator:

America's hospitals strongly oppose a Senate proposal to cut funding for seniors' Medicare to pay for extended unemployment benefits. While we do not oppose the extension of these benefits, we *do* oppose using Medicare reductions to pay for non-Medicare related spending.

Medicare has been cut time and time again – most recently under the budget agreement signed into law just weeks ago. Medicare is meant to assure seniors access to needed medical care, not serve as a piggybank for other programs. It is bad policy to further extend Medicare sequester cuts that could undermine care for seniors.

Hospitals already face \$113 billion in cuts that have been imposed over the last three years at a time of enormous change and challenges. We urge you to reject this proposal, which will jeopardize health services for seniors.

Sincerely,

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