



FLORIDA  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

An Association of Hospitals & Health Systems

June 10, 2002

The Honorable Bill Thomas  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Thomas,

On behalf of 230 hospital and health system members of the Florida Hospital Association, I am writing to offer our support of the provider provisions in the latest draft of Medicare legislation developed by the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees and to express our appreciation for involving hospitals in crafting the package.

Florida's hospitals are facing extreme pressures due to the nursing shortage, bioterrorism preparedness requirements, and health care liability premium increases. In addition, the Medicaid upper payment limit rule will eliminate about \$185 million a year in payments to hospitals in the state. The draft Medicare provider package, according to the outline we have seen, offers a strong first step in strengthening the cracking foundation of Florida's hospitals.

Again, thank you for your efforts and your continued support for hospitals, which are essential to the health of every community. We look forward to working with you to move this package through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Wayne NeSmith  
President

Tallahassee Office  
306 East College Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1558  
850-222-9800 Fax: 850-561-6230

[www.fha.org](http://www.fha.org)

Regional Office - Orlando  
307 Park Lake Circle  
Orlando, FL 32803  
407-841-6230 Fax: 407-422-5948

[www.FLHealthJobs.com](http://www.FLHealthJobs.com)

Washington, DC Office  
444 N. Capitol Street, NW, #837  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-347-7878 Fax: 202-347-2662