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Bruce Yarwood
PRESIDENT & CEO

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Levin and Chairman Baucus:

On behalf of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL), we are writing to you in strong support of the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. There are many far reaching positive aspects of this legislation. From the perspective of the nursing home and assisted living communities, we are particularly pleased that you have chosen to provide a six month extension of the temporary increase in Federal Medicaid Matching Rate (FMAP). Given the dire economic problems facing the states and the difficult circumstances facing providers with Medicaid reimbursement, this provision makes good sense and is responsive to the tough economic situation in the various states.

Adequate and consistent Medicare and Medicaid funding is directly linked with high care quality and proper staffing, which cannot be achieved without stable government support. For the millions of vulnerable frail, elderly and disabled Americans who depend upon on long term care and services, your bill represents the kind of help that is needed now to protect quality care and to preserve the jobs of the dedicated front line staff, who are working to improve the quality of life for those entrusted to their care.

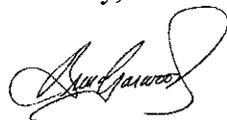
We are also very appreciative of the provision to repeal the delay of RUGs IV which will ultimately allow this to go into effect on October 1, 2010, along with the other payment changes contemplated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

In addition, we commend you for providing increases to the Medicare physician payment rates. This is a critical issue for the physicians who provide valuable services to patients in skilled nursing facilities.

There are many other provisions in the bill which will help skilled nursing facilities as employers along with their employees and the patients we serve.

We thank you for crafting this legislation and we are pleased to provide our strong support. We look forward to working with you to help advance the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Yarwood
President and CEO