



June 9, 2004

The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6348

Re: Provisions in H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of VHA Inc., I would like to thank you for your leadership on H.R. 4520, a bill scheduled to be marked up by the Ways and Means Committee later this week.

VHA (formerly Voluntary Hospitals of America) is particularly appreciative of two aspects of H.R. 4520: (1) your inclusion of a provision to address the irrational imposition of a triple level of tax on distributions made by cooperatives under current law; and (2) the revisions made by you and your staff to the leasing provisions as originally drafted in order to mitigate adverse impacts of those proposals on legitimate leasing transactions that are not tax-motivated or abusive in nature.

In addressing our concerns that various aspects of the leasing proposals would impose inappropriate and costly burdens on regular leases of medical equipment and other technology, you have appropriately narrowed the broadly drafted provisions. We appreciate very much your working with us on these complex provisions.

Please let me know there is anything further VHA can do help ensure enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward N. Goodman".

Edward N. Goodman
Vice President, Public Policy