



American Hospital  
Association

# ADVOCACY UPDATE

## *Action Alert!*

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

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**NEED ACTION FROM.....** *All hospital leaders*  
**ACTION .....** *Urge senators to reject Medicare and  
Medicaid expansion*  
**WHEN .....** *Immediately*  
**HOW .....** *Call 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected  
to your senators' offices*

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Urgent! Urge your senators to reject expansion of Medicare and Medicaid as part of public option

As the Senate debates health reform, we have issued *Advocacy Alerts* urging opposition to attempts to expand the authority of an Independent Medicare Advisory Board to impose additional hospital payment cuts (Dec. 3), and on our three overriding concerns with the Senate bill (Nov. 23): its coverage numbers, readmissions policy, and public option.

As we have indicated, we expect problematic amendments to continue to be offered and we will need your continued help to defeat them.

Today's action: Key senators in behind-the-scenes negotiations are seriously considering adding millions of people to the rolls of Medicare and Medicaid as part of a public plan option in the health reform bill.

- **Medicare** pays hospitals just 91 cents for each dollar of care provided, yet the proposal being considered would allow people 55-65 to enroll in Medicare instead of the insurance exchange under the public option.
- **Medicaid** currently pays hospitals just 88 cents for each dollar of care provided, but additional people at certain low income levels would be enrolled in Medicaid instead of the insurance exchange.

Remember that we worked hard to successfully and significantly change the House bill so its public option was not entirely based on Medicare rates, but largely on negotiated rates, and in the Senate we worked to ensure that the Finance Committee bill has a non-profit, non-governmental public option based on negotiated rates and not tied to Medicare or Medicaid.

*(Call 1-877-242-2240 or e-mail [AHAadvocacy@aha.org](mailto:AHAadvocacy@aha.org)  
to let us know how your Hill contacts go ... thanks!)*

Adding millions of people to these programs at a time when they already severely underfund hospitals is unwise and should be opposed.

***Please contact your senators today and ask them to reject any expansion of Medicare and Medicaid in reform negotiations.***

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