

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

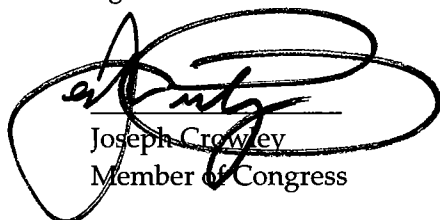
As the House and Senate continue to draft comprehensive health care reform legislation, we urge you to fully protect Medicare and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments in the bill brought before the U.S. House of Representatives.

As you know, Medicaid DSH funds allow states to offset losses that hospitals incur both for services to the uninsured and underinsured and the low reimbursement rates of Medicaid. The Medicare DSH program furnishes support for our many rural and urban institutions for the provision of care to low-income Americans.

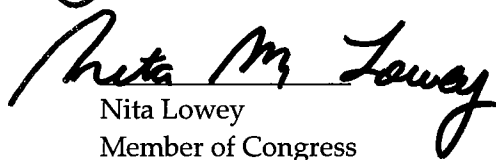
We understand that as more Americans become insured, the need for DSH payments may decrease. However, we also believe we must be careful not to arbitrarily cut payments to safety-net hospitals without first collecting adequate data to show that individuals in those areas have access to care. In addition, for hospitals serving a large number of Medicaid patients, Medicaid reimbursement rates frequently are below cost.

We are committed to expanding good quality insurance to all Americans, but we are also realistic that there will always be some level of gaps in coverage. For the individuals who continue to fall between the cracks, hospitals will continue to be their source of care. In New York alone, the uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid beneficiaries account for more than 30% of the population-making the New York hospital system the leading provider of uncompensated care.

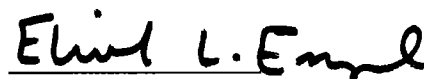
If hospitals are to continue performing the safety-net provider role, we strongly believe that both Medicaid and Medicare DSH payments must be preserved until we can adequately ensure that uninsured and underinsured individuals have access to quality health care. We applaud the Tri-Committee's vision on this critical issue to New York, and we look forward to working with you on addressing these issues over the coming months as Congress works towards passing critical health reform legislation.



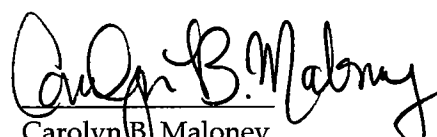
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress




Nita Lowey
Member of Congress




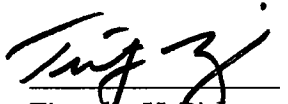
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

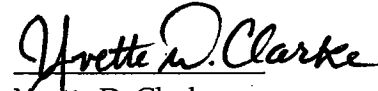


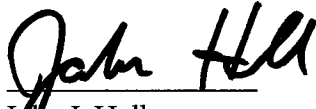
Carolyn B. Maloney
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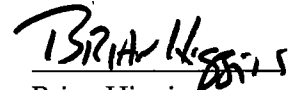

Gary L. Ackerman
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Michael A. Acuri
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Timothy H. Bishop
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Yvette D. Clarke
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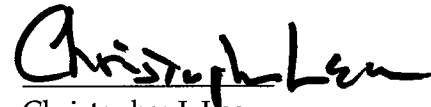

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Brian Higgins
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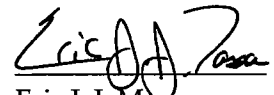

Maurice D. Hinchey
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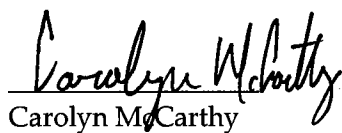

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

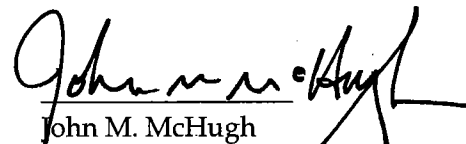

Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Christopher J. Lee
Member of Congress

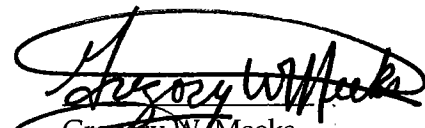

Daniel B. Maffei
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Eric J. J. Massa
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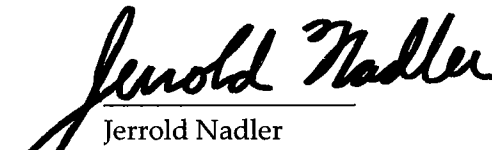

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

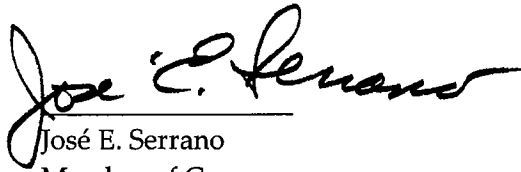

John M. McHugh
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Michael E. McMahon
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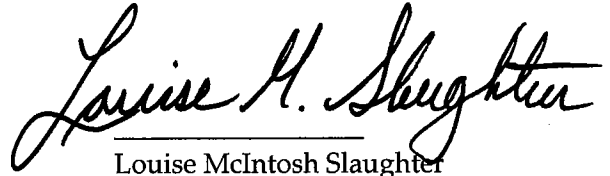

Gregory W. Meeks
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Scott Murphy
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



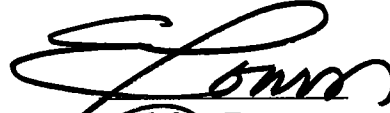
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



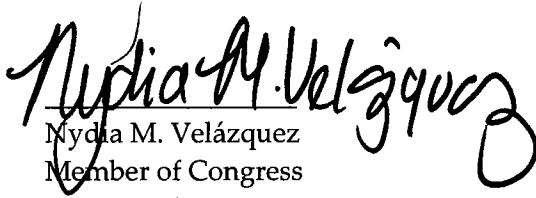
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



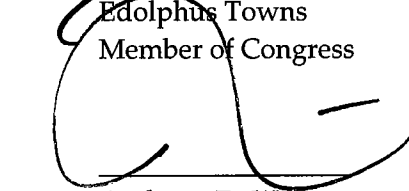
Paul D. Tonko
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Edolphus Towns
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Anthony D. Weiner
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