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Lynn Nicholas, FACHE

President & CEO

April 1, 2010

The Honorable Mike Capuano
US. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

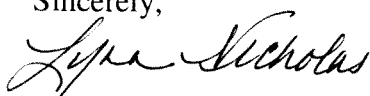
Dear Representative Capuano:

You have probably received a letter of gratitude sent from our Board on behalf of the hospitals of Massachusetts, but I wanted to write personally to thank you for your passion, leadership, and substantive guidance throughout the health care reform debates, especially in the final weeks of deliberations.

Massachusetts hospitals have been proud to take part in the shared responsibility to provide low-cost, high-quality care for all in our state, which has led the nation in this regard. While we remain wary of the size of the Medicare and Medicaid cuts, we hope to work with the Administration and our Congressional representatives in the future to protect the groundbreaking success of our state program. Further, we recognize that the bill represents an important first step in exploring vitally-needed delivery system reforms that will eventually realign our sometimes fragmented healthcare system. Although any reform effort will by necessity be complex, we believe this bill puts patients first.

With the signing of the reconciliation bill this week, I feel the final piece is in place and we can now turn our attention towards implementation of this historic law. We look forward to working with you to iron out any rough patches in the implementation, but more broadly to smooth the way towards the type of expanded coverage we already experience here in Massachusetts. We value the collaborative approach you took in the past several months, seeking our input on so many of the tough questions to be resolved in the final weeks. This has been a good model, and we remain available to you in the future on these important but complex health care issues before the Congress.

Sincerely,



Lynn Nicholas, FACHE

President & CEO

Massachusetts Hospital Association