



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of PUBLIC HOSPITALS and HEALTH SYSTEMS

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July 25, 2006

The Honorable Fortney H. "Pete" Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0513

Dear Congressman Stark:

On behalf of America's safety net hospitals and health systems, we applaud your efforts to expand health care coverage to the 46 million Americans living today without insurance. The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) has historically supported all reasonable efforts to expand health care coverage to uninsured populations.

NAPH represents more than 100 of America's safety net hospitals and health systems. As key members of the health care safety net, NAPH members are on the front-lines in treating this country's uninsured citizens. Our mission is to provide healthcare services to all individuals, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Each year, NAPH members care for significant numbers of low-income patients, with over 32 percent of our services provided to Medicaid recipients and over 24 percent provided to uninsured patients.

The AmeriCare Health Care Act of 2006 is an innovative and positive approach to solving this country's uninsured crisis. This legislation demonstrates a commitment we share to ensuring that all Americans receive a basic level of quality care and access to critical treatment. We look forward to working with you to determine how the bill's creative new concepts would affect the Medicaid program and safety net providers. NAPH commends you and your staff for your commitment to expanding health care coverage to all Americans. We appreciate your leadership on these issues and other issues important to NAPH and its members in order to ensure access to healthcare for our nation's poor and underserved.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Gage
President