



Charles N. Kahn III  
President

June 25, 2003

Representative Earl Pomeroy  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pomeroy:

The Federation of American Hospitals appreciates your continued commitment to our nation's rural hospitals, and supports your amendment to the "Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003" (H.R. 2473) that would decrease the wage index labor share to 62%, while holding other hospitals harmless. This important amendment would help achieve equity in hospital payments.

As you well know, to be able to provide high quality community care, rural hospitals must contend with a unique set of financial and workforce challenges and, for far too long, they have been shortchanged by the Medicare program. Through your leadership, rural hospitals throughout the nation will soon get vitally needed federal assistance, enabling them to continue to provide high-quality hospital care that Medicare beneficiaries in rural communities expect and deserve.

We commend you for recognizing the health care challenges in rural America, and for your commitment to help rural hospitals secure the resources to provide care for Medicare beneficiaries. We look forward to working with you and with other Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, to get this important amendment passed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Ch. Kahn", is written over a horizontal red line.