



## Advocacy Alert

Your input is needed! As a service to members, these alerts are distributed when there is a significant development that requires your attention and feedback. ASHE advocates with code and standard-setting bodies to develop appropriate standards that protect your facility and the communities you serve.

**Requesting Action From:** Hospital leaders

**Action Requested:** Ask your U.S. representative to sign letter to new administration

**When:** Immediately

**How:** Call or e-mail your representative

**Why:** Include hospital issues in economic recovery package

### **Signatures needed on House letter urging President-elect to include hospital issues in economic recovery package**

The first priority of the Obama administration when it takes office in two weeks is to enact an economic recovery package. Reps. Robert Brady (D-PA) and Joe Wilson (R-SC) are asking their House colleagues to sign a letter urging the President-elect to include relief for hospitals in the plan. Has your representative signed? The letter cites the "necessity of maintaining the economic health of our nation's hospitals" and notes that hospitals are among the nation's largest employers—five million jobs nationwide.

Specifically, the letter calls on the new administration to:

- Increase resources and flexibility in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 242 program.
- Invest immediately in health care information and technology systems.
- Grant hospitals access to federal government loan guarantees for construction, renovation, and upgrades.
- Place under moratoria two current rules: the Medicaid hospital outpatient rule and the Medicare indirect medical education capital payment cut.

#### **Other Advocacy Actions**

The steps outlined in the Brady-Wilson letter are among several specific actions Congress and the new administration can take to ensure hospitals can continue providing the care their communities need. These steps are outlined further in a special AHA legislative proposal that was recently shared with every senator and representative's office on Capitol Hill. To read the AHA proposal—which echoes

many of the principles outlined in *Health for Life*, the hospital field's framework for health care reform— [click here](#).

Also, during the next few weeks, the AHA will be running an ad in key Washington print and online publications backing your efforts to urge members of Congress to sign the letter. To view the ad, [click here](#).

Including these key hospital issues in the economic recovery package is critical to preserving hospitals' financial health so they can serve patients at a time when demand for health care services is soaring. You can find the text of the Brady-Wilson letter, with the current list of representatives who have signed, by [clicking here](#).

**If your legislators have not already signed the Brady-Wilson letter, please contact them and urge them to sign immediately!**