



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

May 9, 2011

The Honorable Sam Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1211 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

On behalf of the physician and student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to offer our strong support for your bill, H.R. 1186, that would repeal limits to the whole hospital exception of the Stark physician self-referral law, which essentially bans physician ownership of hospitals and places serious restrictions on expansion of already existing physician-owned hospitals.

Physician-owned hospitals have been shown to provide the highest quality care and substantial net community benefits through uncompensated care and taxes. Limiting the viability of physician-owned hospitals will only reduce access to high-quality health care and have a destructive effect on the economy in communities these hospitals serve. Limits on existing physician-owned hospitals put them at a competitive disadvantage, making it difficult for them to respond to the health care needs of their local communities.

Your bill would level the playing field, allowing physician-owned hospitals to remain competitive, continue their solid record of providing the highest quality health care to patients, and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. We applaud your leadership on this critical matter, and look forward to working with you to enact H.R. 1186.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA