



**Section 508 Hospital
Coalition Members**

Connecticut

Griffin Hospital
Hospital of St. Raphael
John Dempsey Hospital
MidState Medical Center
St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury
St. Vincent's Medical Center
Waterbury Hospital
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Iowa

Allen Memorial Hospital
Covenant Medical Center
Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa

Massachusetts

Berkshire Medical Center

Michigan

Alpena General Hospital
Bon Secours Hospital
Botsford General Hospital
Cottage Hospital
Detroit Receiving Hospital
Harper University Hospital
Henry Ford Hospital
Henry Ford Wyandotte
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
Oakwood Heritage Hospital
Oakwood Hospital
Oakwood Southshore Medical
Center

Providence Hospital

Sinai-Grace Hospital
St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital
St. John Hospital & Medical Center
St. John Oakland Hospital
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital
William Beaumont Hospital – Royal
Oak

William Beaumont Hospital – Troy

New Jersey

Hackettstown Community Hospital
St. Clare's – Sussex
Warren Hospital

Newton Memorial Hospital

New York

North Shore University Hospital

North Carolina

Memorial Mission Hospital

North Dakota

Trinity Hospitals

Oregon

Bay Area Hospital

Pennsylvania

The Bloomsburg Hospital
Community Medical Center
Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical
Center

Moses Taylor Hospital

South Dakota

Rapid City Regional Hospital

Texas

United Regional Health System

Virginia

Carilion Medical Center
Norton Community Hospital

June 26, 2007

The Honorable Earl Pomeroy
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Pomeroy and Walden:

The Section 508 Hospital Coalition applauds your commitment to America's rural health care providers and thanks you for introducing the *Health Care Access and Rural Equity (H-CARE) Act of 2007*. The Section 508 Hospital Coalition enthusiastically endorses this important bill!

The Section 508 Coalition is an alliance of hospitals across the country seeking to address specific inequities in Medicare payments for hospital services. Section 508 of the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003* (MMA) corrected geographic inequities in wage index-related payments for approximately 120 hospitals, but only for a three-year period. Congress extended this important relief through section 106 of the *Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006*, but that extension also was time-limited. Without further congressional intervention, these reclassifications will expire on September 30, 2007.

Your legislation would extend these reclassifications and thereby prevent the loss of millions of dollars that are vital to these hospitals and the patients they serve. Of equal importance, consistent with the original MMA provision, your legislation would extend these reclassification without affecting payments to other hospitals.

Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require time to consider wage index reform. The additional 3-year extension for Section 508 hospitals in your legislation guarantees that these hospitals are protected before their reclassifications expire, and throughout any reform process that may be considered next year.

On behalf of our hospitals and the patients they serve, thank you for your commitment these important issues. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

The Section 508 Coalition