

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Preserving Access to Rehabilitation Hospitals

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in expressing our concerns about disproportionate proposals affecting rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based rehabilitation units.

Rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based rehabilitation units provide critically important medical rehabilitation, therapy, and rehabilitative nursing care to hundreds of thousands of patients with conditions that require intensive rehabilitation. These hospitals and units afford patients with the opportunity for a quick recovery so they can resume active, productive, and high quality lifestyles in their homes and communities.

Since 2004, Medicare's expenditures for rehabilitation hospital services have remained essentially flat. As there has not been growth in rehabilitation hospital spending, legislative proposals containing disproportionate cuts or policy changes will do little to contain cost increases or reduce the federal deficit. Dramatically reducing funding inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units will only serve to cut access to these vital services.


We understand the need to reduce the federal budget deficit. However, reductions should be targeted at areas with steep cost increases and not be achieved at the expense of unwarranted and disproportionate cuts to rehabilitation hospitals and units, diminishing patients' access to care and services.

If you would like more information or would like to join us in this letter, please contact Rachael Bohlander in Mr. LoBiondo's office at x56572 or Ann Jablon in Mr. Neal's office at x55601.

Sincerely,



Frank A. LoBiondo
United States Congress



Richard E. Neal
United States Congress