



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***HOUSE MEDICARE BILL A GREAT
ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS***

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President of the Federation of American Hospitals:

The House of Representatives has made a major contribution toward improving the health care security of America's seniors by passing a Medicare bill to cover the cost of prescription drugs. This bill also helps seniors by giving significant relief to hospitals that provide the care upon which all Americans depend.

Today's vote indicates that Congress understands the pressure hospitals are facing with ever-increasing costs, a national nursing shortage, expansive and expensive bioterrorism preparedness requirements, and an aging population. It also indicates that Congress understands the front-line role that hospitals play in our nation's communities. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle, and hope that the Senate ultimately will approve similar legislative relief.

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The Federation of American Hospitals ("FAH") is the national representative of privately owned and managed community hospitals and health systems throughout the United States.