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July 25, 2007

Hon. Charles B. Rangel
 Chairman
 Committee on Ways & Means
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Jim McCrery
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Ways & Means
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Pete Stark
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Health
 Committee on Ways & Means
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Dave Camp
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Health
 Committee on Ways & Means
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Members:

The Acute Long Term Hospital Association (ALTHA) represents several hundred of the nation’s long-term, acute-care (LTAC) hospitals. We applaud your leadership in drafting H.R. 3162, the Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act). We are writing today to inform you of the decision made today by the ALTHA Board of Directors to formally endorse your bill.

The CHAMP Act contains a number of provisions which will help protect patient access to the unique care our hospitals provide. The CHAMP Act’s LTAC hospital provisions build on the extensive policy record of U.S. Rep. Earl Pomeroy, U.S. Rep Phil English and U.S. Rep. John Larson who have all worked so hard to build a broad and energetic consensus on LTAC hospital issues. We appreciate their efforts over the past year.

Specifically, the CHAMP Act establishes federally-mandated certification criteria – for both patients and facilities – which address MedPAC and CMS concerns about the types of patients who are admitted to LTAC hospitals. ALTHA has long-supported legislation to address these issues. While we have some concern about a freeze in the rates paid to our hospitals, we nevertheless feel that the CHAMP Act is a very positive development for our hospitals and the medically-complex patients we serve.

We are grateful to you and your staff for the time and energy you have devoted to the study of our issues. We look forward to working with you to get this legislation enacted.

Sincerely,

William M. Altman
 Chairman, ALTHA Policy Committee
 Senior V.P., Kindred Healthcare

Peter R. Baronoff
 CEO, Promise Healthcare
 President, ALTHA Board of Directors

William Walters
 CEO
 Acute Long Term Hospital Association