



## MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

*Sponsored by Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother*

July 19, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm  
US Representative  
*Via email transmittal*  
*Attn: Jessica Talbert*

Dear Congressman Grimm:

On behalf of Ministry Health Care and Affinity Health System, thank you for sponsoring the Taking Essential Steps for Testing Act (The TEST Act; H.R. 6118).

The legislation is an excellent step in addressing concerns of many hospitals across the country, including all hospitals in the Ministry Health Care system, relative to the rare occurrence of proficiency test referrals ("PT referral") in hospital/clinical laboratories.

The current regulatory structure offers no flexibility or interpretation of CMS if a non-intentional PT referral occurs. Under the current structure, hospitals are subject to significant financial and operational losses if a PT referral occurs. The legislation balances the important need to protect patient quality and safety in the event of such a non-intentional PT referral (proficiency test samples are not patient laboratory samples).

We appreciate your leadership and support. I am available at 414.359.3154 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Karla Ashenhurst  
Government Affairs Director  
Ministry Health Care (including Affinity Health System)  
[karla.ashenhurst@ministryhealth.org](mailto:karla.ashenhurst@ministryhealth.org)  
414.359.3154

C: Tom Crowley, President, Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center (Wabasha, MN)