



American Hospital
Association

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July 23, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm
United States House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grimm:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 42,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support H.R. 6118, the *Taking Essential Steps for Testing (TEST) Act of 2012*.

This legislation would make a needed change to existing law benefiting patients' access to lab services. The TEST Act will update statutory language in the *Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)* to provide the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services much-needed discretion so that laboratories of all types, including hospital and independent laboratories, would not have their CLIA certificates revoked for the unintentional referral of proficiency testing samples or for laboratory referrals that occur without the intent to subvert the rules. It is important that laboratories not be unfairly punished for following their usual protocols, which sometimes result in the unintentional referral of a proficiency test specimen to another laboratory. H.R. 6118 will preserve patient access to laboratory services. It will prevent the wasted time and expense of a CLIA certificate being revoked for an unintentional referral, which in turn makes it impossible for the laboratory to provide these vital services to patients.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders toward passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President