



May 27, 2014

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Wicker:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals is pleased to endorse your new bill, the Hospital Readmissions Program Accuracy and Accountability Act.

Your bill calls for adding a much-needed risk adjustment element to Medicare's hospital readmissions reduction program. NAUH has long been concerned about the inequities inherent in this Medicare program and believes your bill addresses much of that inequity. As we have conveyed on numerous occasions to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and to Congress as far back as 2012, patients who face serious socio-economic challenges – the very patients served in disproportionate numbers by private, non-profit urban safety-net hospitals – are often fundamentally more challenging to treat than the typical hospital patient: challenging because they frequently have had only sporadic access to health care over long periods of time and have conditions that are therefore more complex to treat and challenging because they often lack the financial resources and community supports needed to facilitate recovery from illnesses and injuries and avoid readmission.

The Hospital Readmissions Program Accuracy and Accountability Act is a timely proposal for addressing these inequities and would make a major contribution toward improving the effectiveness of Medicare's hospital readmissions reduction program. NAUH enthusiastically supports the bill and thanks you for proposing it.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

