

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2012

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

As Members of Illinois' Congressional Delegation, we write to urge you to consider the wide array of essential community benefits that non-profit hospitals provide to residents of the State as your Administration deliberates their future tax-exempt status.

All Illinoisans have a vested interest in supporting and maintaining strong hospitals that provide programs and services that meet the needs of all, especially the indigent, the uninsured and medically underserved. Without question, the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois must be assured that any tax benefit advances societal interests and we recognize the need for State parameters through which non-profit hospitals are conferred exemption from property taxes. Therefore, Illinois should maintain a clear and predictable process that recognizes the many ways in which non-profit hospitals provide essential, charitable benefits for their communities.

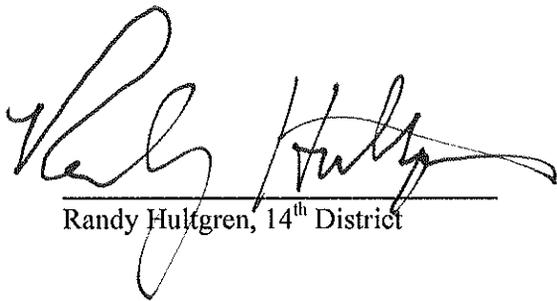
Tax-exempt status allows these and other charitable institutions to continue to serve as important partners with the State in meeting its health care, education and social service obligations. The private investments made by Illinois' non-profit hospitals, many of which can be found among the \$4.6 billion in community benefits reported in 2010 by 109 hospitals under the Illinois Community Benefits Act, encourage community based solutions to public health needs. A more inclusive evaluation of community benefits will allow these hospitals to continue providing billions in free, discounted, or undercompensated care and other programs that benefit our State and localities.

We feel strongly that any change in the calculation of tax-exempt status must assume a reasonable definition of charitable purposes that recognizes the significant return on society's investment that these institutions provide to the communities they serve. We are especially concerned that any policy change which imposes new taxes on non-profit hospitals could hamper the ability of these institutions to continue providing money-losing services, such as trauma, that benefit our communities and are vital to our emergency preparedness and response networks.

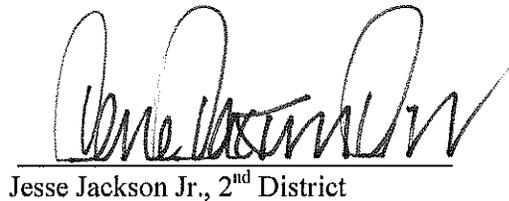
Furthermore, Illinois' hospitals serve as a fundamental building block for our state's economy. According to a recent report commissioned by the Illinois Hospital Association, hospitals directly and secondarily support over 425,000 jobs that, in turn, create an estimated economic impact exceeding \$78 billion annually. Clearly, Illinois citizens benefit directly from the charitable tax exemptions conferred upon non-profit hospitals through their economic impact as well as the high quality medical care they provide to patients throughout the state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your consideration of the broad range of non-profit hospital community contributions before making any decisions to change the tax exempt status that is vital to many of Illinois non-profit hospitals.

Sincerely,



Randy Hultgren, 14th District



Jesse Jackson Jr., 2nd District



Bobby Rash, 1st District



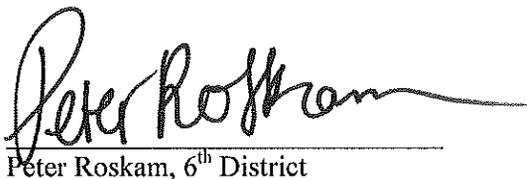
Daniel Lipinski, 3rd District



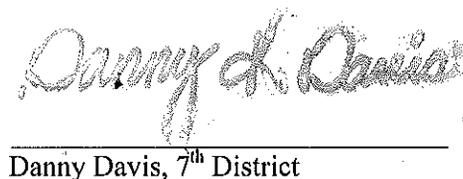
Luis Gutierrez, 4th District



Mike Quigley, 5th District



Peter Roskam, 6th District



Danny Davis, 7th District



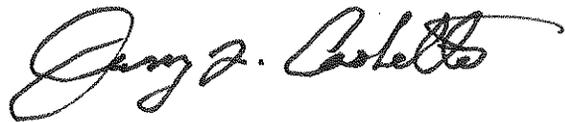
Joe Walsh, 8th District



Bob Dold, 10th District



Adam Kinzinger, 11th District



Jerry Costello, 12th District



Judy Biggert, 13th District



Tim Johnson, 15th District



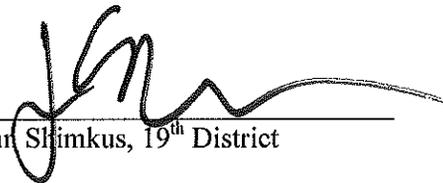
Don Manzullo, 16th District



Bobby Schilling, 17th District



Aaron Schock, 18th District



John Shimkus, 19th District