



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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February 20, 2017

The Honorable Sam Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1156, "Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act of 2017," that would repeal limits to the whole hospital exception of the Stark physician self-referral law, which essentially bans physician ownership of hospitals and places restrictions on expansion of already existing physician-owned hospitals.

Physician-owned hospitals have been shown to provide the highest quality care to the patients they serve. Limiting the viability of physician-owned hospitals reduces access to high-quality health care and has a destructive effect on the economy in communities these hospitals serve. Limits on existing physician-owned hospitals put them at a competitive disadvantage, making it difficult for them to respond to the health care needs of their local communities.

Your bill would level the playing field, allowing physician-owned hospitals to remain competitive, continue their solid record of providing the highest quality health care to patients, and contribute significantly to the communities they serve.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to repeal limits on expansion and new construction of physician-owned hospitals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD