



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2008

CONTACT: Richard Coorsh
(202) 624-1527

e-mail: rcoorsh@fah.org

FAH APPLAUDS CHAIRMAN BAUCUS'S HEALTH REFORM LEADERSHIP

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President of the Federation of American Hospitals:

The FAH applauds Chairman Baucus's vision, leadership and commitment to solving the crisis of America's uninsured and enhancing the delivery of health care for all. His thoughtful framework shows a keen understanding of the issues and challenges facing policy makers and recognizes the essential role of today's employer-based coverage system through which the vast majority of Americans under age 65 obtain coverage. We also appreciate that his policy paper is based on many of the same principles that the Federation included in its detailed "Health Coverage Passport" universal coverage proposal, released early last year.

Few understand the tragedy that the uninsured and their families endure better than the hospitals they turn to for care and the men and women who staff our hospitals and are proud to provide care 24/7 to the uninsured and under insured.

We look forward to working with Chairman Baucus and other Members of Congress to solve this crisis and ensure continued access to the high quality, efficient care that Americans expect and deserve.

###

The Federation of American Hospitals is the national representative of investor-owned or managed hospitals and health systems. Our members include general community and teaching hospitals in urban and rural areas as well as rehabilitation, long-term, cancer and psychiatric hospitals.