August 30, 2006

Citizen's Health Care Working Group
7201 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 575
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Members of the Working Group:

On behalf of St. Vincent Health, a 16 hospital health care system serving Central Indiana, I would like to offer my comments regarding the Citizen's Health Care Working Group's interim Recommendations. St. Vincent Health is committed to 100 percent access to health care, and we have had the opportunity to share our support in a variety of settings. As such, I hope to simply reaffirm our commitment for the Working Group's six Interim Recommendations.

As you know, Dr. Patricia Maryland, president of St. Vincent Hospital and executive vice president of St. Vincent Health, has been a critical component of the Group and is presently its Chair. She has kept our leadership team informed and engaged throughout the Working Group's process of hearings, community meetings and discussion. St. Vincent Health was honored to serve as a host for the Working Group's community meeting in Indianapolis this year, and had broad-based representation providing excellent input.

The nation and Indiana, specifically, is struggling with a growing uninsured population. In 2005, over 850,000 Indiana Hoosiers had no health insurance plan, or had a significant gap in their coverage. One of our "Call to Action" objectives is to advocate for "Healthcare That Leaves No One Behind." Based on that, we strongly support the Working Group's first two Recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:** Guarantee financial protection against very high health costs – *No one in America should be impoverished by health care costs.*

**Recommendation 2:** Support integrated community health networks.

In response to **Recommendation 3:** Promote efforts to improve quality of care, I want to highlight the response and energy from Indiana to address quality. The Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) is a national leader in the development of electronic records and systems. As the Chairman of IHIE, I am proud of the work being done and the technological opportunities available to all, which better coordinates and communicates data for the continuum of care. We strongly support this Recommendation.
Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on the Interim Recommendations, and offer St. Vincent Health's assistance and support as you move forward in your effort to improve our country's healthcare. I believe the Recommendations, when adopted and implemented by our governmental leaders, will greatly improve access to care for millions of citizens.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vincent C. Caponi  
Chief Executive Officer  
St. Vincent Health

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