



125 YEARS OF GROWING TOGETHER

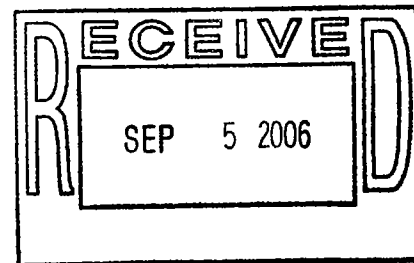


8425 Harcourt Road  
Indianapolis, IN  
46260

stvincent.org

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.

St. Vincent  
Indianapolis Hospital

St. Joseph  
Hospital

St. Vincent  
Carmel Hospital

St. Vincent  
Children's Hospital

St. Vincent  
Clay Hospital

St. Vincent  
Frankfort Hospital

St. Vincent  
Jennings Hospital

St. Vincent  
Mercy Hospital

St. Vincent  
New Hope

St. Vincent  
Pediatric Rehabilitation  
Center

St. Vincent  
Randolph Hospital

St. Vincent  
Stress Centers

St. Vincent  
Williamsport Hospital

St. Elizabeth Ann  
Seton Hospital

Saint John's  
Health System

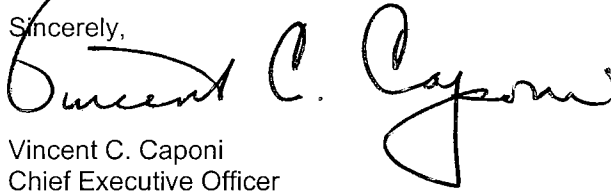
St. Vincent  
Women's Hospital

St. Vincent  
Physician Network

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Caponi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" being the most prominent.

Vincent C. Caponi  
Chief Executive Officer  
St. Vincent Health

VCC:kr