

Dear ASHA Members:

Healthy competition has returned to healthcare with expiration of moratorium on specialty hospitals. It wasn't too long ago we were all wondering what the next 18 months would hold in store for the specialty hospital industry? What questions would be asked? What propaganda would our opponents use to criticize the industry? Who from our organization would step up and show determination, compassion and leadership?

Many questions have been asked and the entire ASHA membership deserves credit for answering the call. It was you who gave leadership of this organization the necessary resources to accomplish our goals. Your membership dues, your financial contributions to both the PAC and the Truth Campaign, your grassroots support in writing letters and making phone calls to elected officials, and most importantly your dedication to the specialty hospital industry all contributed to the success ASHA is enjoying today.

Trying to thank everybody who was instrumental over the past 18 months is a monumental task. However, without the help of the following people, the industry would be in far worse condition: **B. Don Burman , Michael Lipomi, Doug Johnson, Randy Fenninger, Carlos Vasquez, Brett Gosney, Dr. Alan Pierrot & Greg Weis**

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels. There is a proposed piece of legislation on Capitol Hill right now that if passed, will be more detrimental to our association than the moratorium. We must pledge to ourselves and each other that we will commit the same resources, if not more, to ensuring the Grassley/Baucus bill does not get signed into law.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Congressman Joe Barton and Senator Tom Coburn have shown tremendous support for our industry. We must keep our end of the bargain and show them our unconditional support.

Again, I would like to thank every one reading this letter for your support and congratulate you for this important victory. As I mentioned above, competition has returned to healthcare and I truly believe we're here to stay.

Best wishes,

Jim Grant, President
The American Surgical Hospital Association