My dear Mr. President:

Several months ago representatives of the American, Catholic and Protestant Hospital Associations met with you, and you suggested that they meet also with Mr. Oscar Reing. Accordingly, Mr. Reing began a series of meetings with them hoping that we might advance various aspects of your National Health Program through cooperative effort.

The representatives of the hospital associations have developed the enclosed statement of their present views on health legislation and have asked that it be transmitted to you.

We will continue to work together with every expectation that we shall make further progress.

Respectfully yours,

John L. Thornton

Acting Administrator

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure
Mr. Murphy:

This seems to be a "progress report" just more to come. Would there be value in releasing it, along with a reply from the President? Unless some reason for that procedure, I propose to file it. Let me know what you suggest.

John F. Kennedy
July 29, 1949

WHITE HOUSE

RECEIVED

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Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Acting Administrator

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure
Honorables Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear President Truman:

At your suggestion, representatives of the hospital associations of the nation have met with Hon. Oscar H. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, as an informal committee to discuss closer collaboration between the voluntary hospitals and government agencies in the health problems of our people. The group met in December, 1948; again on June 30, 1949, and most recently a smaller steering group met on July 20, 1949.

While the hospital associations have been on record consistently in opposition to a federal compulsory health insurance program, and do not herein change that position, your committee has found substantial other areas of agreement. We believe that there are fundamental health needs for which sound and constructive solutions have been proposed. Some of these are already pending before the Congress.

We urge early legislative action, and respectfully request that you, as Chief Executive, renew your support of the following legislation now pending before the Congress:

1. Amendments to the Hospital Survey and Construction Act which would extend that program and provide increased federal funds to assist in building additional hospitals where they are most needed.
2. Federal aid to states and communities for assistance in the establishment of full-time public health services.
3. Federal aid for the training of additional health personnel.
4. Federal funds for additional research in the health field.

Your committee has discussed, also, the need for additional federal funds to supplement the efforts of states and local communities in providing hospital care where needed. We are in agreement that such care should be readily available to every citizen, and we plan to go forward with further discussion of the complex problems involved. We believe that there is sufficient agreement between us on the general purposes to be sought so that an acceptable solution can be developed which will not prejudice the freedom of our people nor lessen the value of the voluntary institutions which are so important to the maintenance of high quality care.

You, Mr. President, once said "I rely upon the peculiar genius of the American people to preserve the best values of the voluntary system..." We believe that the satisfactory solution of the health problems of the nation will require the best efforts and understanding of both voluntary and governmental agencies. We shall report further to you at the earliest possible date.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signatures]

John H. Hayes, for the American Hospital Association

Mr. John W. Barrett, for the Catholic Hospital Association

John G. Martin, B.D., for the American Protestant Hospital Association