

April 13, 2020

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We greatly appreciate your leadership in this time of national crisis and thank you for your quick actions to strengthen America's health care infrastructure with desperately needed financial support. The expanded accelerated payment policy for Medicare providers is an extremely helpful approach that allows us to maintain essential medical services for all patients. As you know, our hospitals have canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help assure there is adequate hospital capacity during the epidemic. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General report released April 6 (Hospital Experiences Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results of a National Pulse Survey March 23-27, 2020) found that substantial financial assistance is a top priority for all hospitals as we struggle to maintain services to the communities we serve.

We write to you today respectfully requesting that Congress forgive all accelerated payments that hospitals and other providers receive, as authorized in Section 3179 of the CARES Act. We ask you to include this policy change in the next COVID-19 relief legislation. While this change may still not provide enough financial support to hospitals, the situation can be re-evaluated as the course of the epidemic becomes more certain.

Unless these loans are forgiven, hospitals will be facing another financial crisis just four months from now as the government begins to withhold Medicare payments for services provided after the pandemic fades and until the loans are repaid. While the \$100 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, will be helpful, we believe it will be woefully inadequate to compensate for our mounting losses. Without substantially more financial support, it is nearly certain that many hospitals will be forced to close or significantly reduce health care services over the next several months – and perhaps longer. This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the nation is hit with another round of the viral epidemic later this year.

Thank you for considering this request. We stand ready to work with you in every way to support our men and women on the frontline caring for those with the coronavirus. These heroes need to know that the nation will provide whatever it takes to assure they will have the resources to continue the battle.

Sincerely,

Health Systems

Adena Health System
Ohio

AdventHealth
Florida

Adventist HealthCare
Maryland

Allina Health
Minnesota

Appalachian Regional Healthcare
Kentucky

Atrium Health
North Carolina, Georgia

Aultman Health Foundation
Ohio

Avita Health System
Ohio

Baptist Health
Kentucky

Baylor Scott & White Health
Texas

CentraCare
Minnesota

Centura Health
Colorado, Kansas

Genesis Healthcare System
Ohio

Hackensack Meridian Health
New Jersey

HealthPartners
Minnesota

Henry Ford Health System
Michigan

Kettering Health Network
Ohio

Lake Health
Ohio

Legacy Health
Oregon

Loma Linda Health Network
California

MaineHealth
Maine

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Tennessee

Norton Healthcare
Kentucky

Ochsner Health
Louisiana

Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon

OSF Healthcare
Illinois

Parkview Health
Indiana

PeaceHealth
Washington

Piedmont Healthcare
Georgia

Presbyterian Healthcare Services
New Mexico

ProMedica
Ohio

Providence St. Joseph Health
Washington

Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics
Oregon

Samaritan Health Services
Oregon

Sanford Health
South Dakota

Sisters of Charity Health System
Ohio

St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Kentucky

The Queens Health Systems
Hawaii

Trinity Health
North Dakota

Critical Access Hospitals

Arizona

White Mountain Regional Medical Center
Wickenburg Community Hospital
Howard Memorial Hospital

Arkansas

Piggott Community Hospital
Drew Memorial Health System
Ozarks Community Hospital

California

Healdsburg District Hospital
Tahoe Forest Health System
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
John C. Fremont Healthcare District

Colorado

Haxtun Hospital District
Kiowa County Health District
Lincoln Community Hospital
Sedgwick County Health Center
Middle Park Medical Center
Middle Park Health
Memorial Regional Health
Wray Community District Hospital
Wray Hospital & Clinics
Kit Carson County Hospital Memorial Hospital
Keefe Memorial Hospital
Yuma District Healthcare
Melissa Memorial Hospital
Southwest Health System, Inc.
Southeast Colorado Hospital District
Heart of The Rockies Regional Medical Center
Prowers Medical Center
Animas Surgical Hospital
Aspen Valley Hospital
Community Hospital
Delta County Memorial Hospital
Estes Park Health
Family Health West
Grand River Health
Gunnison Valley Health
Mind Springs Health / West Springs Hospital
Montrose Memorial Hospital
Pagosa Springs Medical Center
Pioneers Medical Center
Rangely District Hospital
Rio Grande Hospital & Clinics
San Luis Valley Health
St. Mary's Medical Center (SCL Health)

Southwest Health System

St. Vincent Hospital
Telluride Regional Medical Center
Vail Health
Valley View
Mt San Raphael Hospital

Georgia

Putnam General Hospital

Idaho

Syringa Hospital & Clinics
Bingham Memorial Hospital
Steele Memorial Medical Center
Gritman Medical Center

Illinois

Perry Memorial Hospital
Massac Memorial Hospital
Ferrell Hospital Community Foundation

Indiana

Henry Community Health

Iowa

Compass Memorial Healthcare
Clark County Hospital
Humboldt County Memorial Hospital
Regional Medical Center
Buchanan County Health Center
Lucas County Health Center
Knoxville Hospital and Clinics
Shenandoah Medical Center
Monroe County Hospital & Clinics
Davis County Hospital and Clinics
Avera Merrill Pioneer Hospital
Greater Regional Health
MahaskaHealth

Kansas

Sabetha Community Hospital
Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems
Stanton County Hospital
Nemaha Valley Community Hospital
Holton Community Hospital
Hanover Hospital
Rawlins County Health Center
Goodland Regional Medical Center
Minneola Healthcare
Edwards County Medical Center

Community Memorial Health, Inc
Newman Regional Health
Hiawatha Community Hospital

Kentucky

Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services, Inc.
Carroll County Memorial Hospital

Louisiana

Union General Hospital

Maine

Down East Community Hospital
LincolnHealth

Minnesota

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
RiverView Health
North Shore Health
Carris Health Redwood
Swift County Benson Health Services
Kittson Healthcare
Pipestone County Medical Center Avera
Tri-County Health Care

Michigan

Harbor Beach Community Hospital
Hills & Dales General Hospital

Mississippi

Perry County General Hospital
Tyler Holmes Memorial Hospital
North Sunflower Medical Center
Greene County Hospital
Covington County Hospital
Magee General Hospital
Memorial Hospital at Gulfport

Missouri

Ray County Memorial Hospital

Montana

Central Montana Medical Center
Glendive Medical Center

Nebraska

Kearney County Health Services
Community Hospital
Osmond General Hospital
Niobrara Valley Hospital

Brodstone Memorial Hospital
Antelope Memorial Hospital
Fillmore County Hospital
Johnson County Hospital
Howard County Medical Center
Lexington Regional Health Center
Gordon Memorial Hospital District
Franklin County Memorial Hospital
Nemaha County Hospital
Phelps Memorial Health Center
Fillmore County Hospital
Gordon Memorial Hospital District
Chase County Community Hospital
Morrill County Community Hospital
Bryan Merrick Medical Center

New Hampshire

Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital

New York

Erie County Medical Center

North Carolina

Charles A Cannon Jr Memorial Hospital

North Dakota

Ashley Medical Center

Ohio

Aultman Orrville Hospital
Wyandot Memorial Hospital
Adena Greenfield Medical Center
Hocking Valley Community Hospital
Bucyrus Community Hospital
Galion Community Hospital
Morrow County Hospital
Hardin Memorial Hospital
Shelby Memorial Hospital

Oklahoma

Cimarron Memorial Hospital and RHC

Oregon

Morrow County Health District/Pioneer
Memorial Hospital
Lake Health District

South Dakota

Avera Gregory Hospital and Rosebud Country Care
Center

Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital
Winner Regional Health
Fall River Health Services

Tennessee

Claiborne County Medical Center

Texas

Cogdell Memorial Hospital
Hardeman County Memorial Hospital
Palacios Community Medical Center
Wilbarger General Hospital

Utah

Central Valley Medical Center
Moab Regional Hospital

Washington

Pullman Regional Hospital
Mid-Valley Hospital & Clinic
Three Rivers Hospital
North Valley Hospital
Tri-State Memorial Hospital & Medical Campus
Lincoln Hospital and Clinics

West Virginia

Mon Health Medical Center

Specialty Hospitals

Gaylord Hospital
Connecticut

Craig Hospital
Colorado

Independent and/or PPS Hospitals

George Regional Hospital
Mississippi

Grove Creek Medical Center
Idaho

CONTACTS:

Lourdes Baez
Assistant VP, Government Relations
Baptist Health
Kentucky
502-253-4801

Wisconsin

Burnett Medical Center
Ladd Memorial Hospital, Inc
Memorial Medical Center
St. Croix Regional Medical Center
Western Wisconsin Health

Wyoming

Wyoming Hospital Association
South Big Horn County Hospital District
Powell Valley Healthcare
Cody Regional Health
St. John's Health
North Big Horn Hospital District
Memorial Hospital of Carbon County
Summit Medical Center
Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County
Weston County Health Services
Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital
Johnson County Healthcare Center
South Lincoln Hospital District
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Crook County Medical Services District
Wyoming Medical Center
Ivinson Memorial Hospital

Hardin Memorial Hospital
Kentucky

Pomerene Hospital
Ohio

Russ Molloy
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
Hackensack Meridian Health
New Jersey
848-888-4544