

April 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership and work to provide relief to the American people during the COVID-19 epidemic through the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. While the \$100 billion provider grant program will be very helpful, additional assistance is clearly needed. 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.

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. With negotiations for the next COVID-19 relief package underway, we write to convey our strong desire that any future package include a provision that forgives Medicare accelerated payments' interest rates and [pursues](#) full loan forgiveness for hospitals and other providers.

In addition to grant funding and new loan programs with zero or low interest rates, Congress should [provide](#) loan forgiveness to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need. [Forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus.](#) And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance billing any patient for COVID-related treatment. In addition, Congress would mandate criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan forgiveness.

[Emergency funding requests to combat the unprecedented times our country faces do not come lightly. We recognize the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund faces imminent concern necessitating a long-term financial solution, and Congress is committed to its solvency. Furthermore, we are also committed to providing timely aid and necessary relief for our hospital caregivers and providers.](#)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work with you in every way to support the men and women on the frontline caring for those with the coronavirus.

Sincerely,