December 17, 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 appreciate your leadership in this time of unprecedented national crisis and thank you for your actions to strengthen America's health care infrastructure with desperately needed financial support. As you know, our hospitals canceled hundreds-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests last spring at the government's request to help assure adequate hospital capacity. As the coronavirus rages across the country with record case counts being eclipsed nearly every day, our hospitals are facing new and increased challenges that put significant stress on our resources. In many parts of the country there is a severe and growing shortage of nurses and other caregivers requiring additional funding to address.

The expanded accelerated and advanced payment policy for Medicare providers, as authorized in Section 3719 of the CARES Act, has been a helpful financial tool allowing us to maintain essential medical services for all patients. However, because of mounting expenses caused by the dramatic and growing spread of the coronavirus, **we write to you today to respectfully request that Congress convert to federal grants all the accelerated and advanced Medicare loans made to hospitals and other providers**. We ask you to make this policy change as soon as possible. Unless these loans are converted to grants, hospitals will likely face an insurmountable financial crisis as COVID-19 ravages the nation. It is not an overstatement to say that some will be forced to close, thus pushing the capacity of those that remain to even greater strains. In rural communities, the threat of closure is real – and the downstream effect to communities would be catastrophic, well beyond the scope of the pandemic. Those that do not close could be forced to significantly reduce health care services over the next several months.

While the $175 billion provider relief fund has been helpful, it is inadequate to compensate for our mounting losses.

As you know, these Medicare loans have very stringent accountability requirements and assure that funds are used only for COVID-19 losses and expenses. These loan programs also provide Congress and the public with complete transparency. Funds not used for COVID-19 losses and expenses would be returned to the federal treasury.

Thank you for consideration of 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,

DRAFT

Critical Access Hospitals

Arkansas
Drew Memorial Health System
Howard Memorial Hospital

Arizona
Copper Queen Community Hospital

California
Catalina Island Medical Center

Colorado
Haxtun Hospital District
Kremmling Memorial Hospital District
Lincoln Community Hospital
Memorial Regional Health
Middle Park Health

Florida
George E. Weems Memorial Hospital

Georgia
Elbert Memorial Hospital
Liberty Regional Medical Center
Putnam General Hospital

Iowa
Burgess Health Center
Compass Memorial Healthcare
Shenandoah Medical Center
Washington County Hospital & Clinics

Idaho
Bingham Memorial Hospital
Gritman Medical Center

Illinois
Massac Memorial Hospital
Riverside Medical Center

Indiana
Pulaski Memorial Hospital
Woodlawn Hospital

Kansas
Community Memorial Healthcare
Hiawatha Community Hospital
Kearny County Hospital
Newman Regional Health
Phillips County Health Systems
Sabetha Community Hospital
Scott County Hospital
Smith County Memorial Hospital
Stanton County Hospital
Minneola Healthcare

Kentucky
Ohio County Healthcare

Louisiana
Reeves Memorial Medical Center
Union General Hospital
Riverside Medical Center

Maine
Down East Community Hospital

Massachusetts
Martha's Vineyard Hospital

Michigan
Hills & Dales General Hospital

Minnesota
North Shore Health
RiverView Health

Mississippi
Covington County Hospital
Magee General Hospital
North Sunflower Medical Center
Perry County General Hospital
Simpson General Hospital
Tippah County Hospital
Tyler Holmes Memorial Hospital

Missouri
Ray County Memorial Hospital

North Carolina
JA Dosher Memorial Hospital

Nebraska
Annie Jeffrey MCHC
Howard County Medical Center
Johnson County Hospital
Kearney County Health Services
LincolnHealth

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Providence Medical Center

Ohio
Hocking Valley Community Hospital
Wyandot Memorial Hospital

Oklahoma
Cimarron Memorial Hospital
Stilwell Memorial Hospital

Oregon
Lake Health District
Morrow County Health District/
Pioneer Memorial Hospital

South Dakota
Fall River Health Services

Texas
Memorial Medical Center

Utah
Moab Regional Hospital

Washington
Lake Chelan Health
Skyline Hospital
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital
Tri-State Memorial Hospital
Willapa Harbor Hospital

Wisconsin
Burnett Medical Center
Memorial Medical Center

Wyoming
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Cody Regional Health
Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital
Memorial Hospital of Carbon County
Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County
North Big Horn Hospital District
South Lincoln Hospital District
Weston County Health Services

Independent Hospitals

Baxter Regional Medical Center
Arkansas

Blount Memorial Hospital
Tennessee

Comanche County Hospital Authority
Oklahoma

Community Hospital
Nebraska

Craig Hospital
Colorado

Crouse Hospital
New York

Deaconess Gibson Hospital
Indiana

Deaconess Union County Hospital
Kentucky

Exeter Health Resources, Inc
New Hampshire

Grove Creek Medical Center
Idaho

Hale County Hospital
Alabama

Hill Hospital of Sumter County
Alabama

Hillsdale Hospital
Michigan

Illinois Valley Community Hospital
Illinois

Jackson County Hospital District
Florida

Kaleida Health
New York

Lawrence General
Massachusetts

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Mass General Brigham
Massachusetts

Meadows Regional Medical Center
Georgia

Middlesex Health
Connecticut

Nevada Regional Medical Center
Missouri

Oceans Healthcare
Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas

Okanogan County Public Hospital District #3, dba Mid Valley Hospital
Washington

Okeene Municipal Hospital
Oklahoma

Olympia Medical Center
California

Pomerene Hospital
Ohio

San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital
California

Shepherd Center
Georgia

St. Anthony Regional Hospital
Iowa

St. Rose Hospital
California

Val Verde Regional Medical Center
Texas

Wayne Memorial Hospital
Georgia

Wishek Hospital, dba South Central Health
North Dakota

Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center

Hospital Systems

Advocate Aurora Health
Illinois, Wisconsin

AtlantiCare Health System
New Jersey

Atrium Health
North Carolina

Aultman
Ohio

Avera Health System
South Dakota

Baptist Health Systems
Kentucky

BigFork Valley
Minnesota

Central Peninsula Hospital
Alaska

CentraCare
Minnesota

Centura Health
Colorado

Charles A Cannon Jr Memorial Hospital
North Carolina

Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center
Colorado

Columbus Regional Healthcare System
North Carolina

Effingham Health System
Georgia

Emory Healthcare
Georgia

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Enloe Medical Center
California

FMOL Health System
Louisiana, Mississippi

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System
Louisiana

Garnet Health, (formerly Greater Hudson Valley Health System)
New York

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
Texas

Hackensack Meridian Health
New Jersey

Henry Ford Health System
Michigan

Jefferson Health
New Jersey, Pennsylvania

Kettering Health Network
Ohio

Lake Health
Ohio

Lee Health
Florida

Legacy Health System
Oregon

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Tennessee

Mon Health System
West Virginia

Mountain Health Network
West Virginia

Northeastern Health System Sequoyah
Oklahoma

Opelousas General Health System
Louisiana

OSF HealthCare
Illinois

Parkview Health
Indiana

Parrish Healthcare
Florida

Piedmont Healthcare
Georgia

Presbyterian Healthcare Services
New Mexico

ProMedica
Ohio

Renown Health
Nevada

Riverside Health System
Virginia

Rush Health Systems
Alabama, Mississippi

Samaritan Health Services
Oregon

Southwest Health Systems
Colorado

St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
Ohio

The Queen's Health System
Hawaii

The University of Vermont Health Network
Vermont

Trinity Health
North Dakota

Wake Forest Baptist Health

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North Carolina

Wise Health System
Texas

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