April 21, 2021

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States 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, at the beginning of the pandemic crisis, our nation's hospitals canceled hundreds-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help assure adequate hospital capacity. As the coronavirus continues to surge across the country, 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 financial support.

Despite Congress' help last year by extending the repayment terms of the expanded accelerated and advanced payment policy for Medicare providers, as authorized in Section 3719 of the CARES Act, loan repayment began March 30. While no one could have known that the coronavirus infection rate would reignite this year, and cause a continuing strain on health care providers, loan repayment now removes precious resources from our use as the coronavirus and its variants continue to infect tens of thousands of people every day.

We write today to respectfully request that Congress, once again, delay the start of the repayment of Medicare loans an additional year. Many of us have needed to tap into those loans to sustain our hospital's ability to care for our communities. Some have not yet used the loans because of concerns about being able to repay them and the hardship that would cause. Either way, requiring loan repayment now makes already difficult circumstances more challenging.

As you know, not all hospitals and providers are financially impacted in the same way as we care for our communities. However, extending the Medicare loans an additional year will help assure that hospitals will remain appropriately staffed and resourced. It would also help assure that loans will be repaid to the Trust Fund because hospitals that used the loans would have more time to recover their financial footing.

We ask you to make this policy change as soon as possible. Unless the loan terms are extended, hundreds of hospitals will likely face an insurmountable financial crisis as COVID-19 continues to ravage the nation. It is not an overstatement to say that some hospitals will be forced to close, thus further straining the capacity of those that remain. In rural communities, the threat of closure is real – and the downstream effect to communities would be catastrophic. Those that do

not close could be forced to significantly reduce health care services over the next several months.

As you know, these Medicare loans have very stringent accountability requirements and also provide Congress and the public with complete transparency.

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,

Critical Access Hospitals

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas
Dallas County Medical Center
Howard Memorial Hospital
Ozarks Community Hospital

California
Catalina Island Medical Center
Jerold Phelps Community Hospital
Modoc Medical Center

Colorado
Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center
Haxtun Hospital District
Lincoln Community Hospital
Memorial Regional Health
Salida Hospital District dba Heart of The Rockies Regional Medical Center
Southeast Colorado Hospital District
Southwest Memorial Hospital

Connecticut

Delaware

Florida
Clay County Hospital

Georgia
Elbert Memorial Hospital
Jeff Davis Hospital
Liberty Regional Medical Center

Hawaii

Idaho
Bingham Memorial Hospital

Illinois
Indiana
Pulaski Memorial Hospital

Iowa

Kansas
Cheyenne County Hospital
Community Memorial Healthcare, Inc
Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center
Phillips County Hospital
Sabetha Community Hospital
Smith County Memorial Hospital
Stanton County Hospital

Kentucky

Louisiana
Riverside Medical Center
Bunkie General Hospital

Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan

Minnesota
Bigfork Valley
Cook Hospital

Mississippi
Covington County Hospital
Greene County Hospital
North Sunflower Medical Center
Perry County General Hospital
Simpson General Hospital

Missouri

Montana
Roosevelt Medical Center

Nebraska

Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center
Howard County Medical Center
Nemaha County Hospital

Nevada

New Jersey

New Mexico
Holy Cross Medical Center

New York
North Carolina
North Dakota

Ohio
Hocking Valley Community Hospital
Wyandot Memorial Hospital

Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee

Texas
Cogdell Memorial Hospital

Utah
Vermont
Virginia

Washington
Tri-State Memorial Hospital
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital

West Virginia
Grafton City Hospital

Wyoming
South Lincoln Hospital District

Independent Hospitals

Baxter Regional Medical Center
Arkansas

Bothwell Regional Health Center
Missouri

CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center
California

Crouse Hospital
New York

Hale County Hospital
Alabama

Enloe Medical Center
California

Fisher Titus Medical Center
Ohio

Franklin Medical Center
Louisiana

Freestone Medical Center and Health Clinics
Texas

Gaylord
Connecticut

Grove Creek Medical Center
Idaho

Knox Community Hospital
Ohio

Logansport Memorial Hospital
Indiana

Maimonides Medical Center
New York

Magee General Hospital
Mississippi

Magruder Memorial Hospital
Ohio

McDonough District Hospital
Illinois

Middlesex Health
Connecticut

Mid Valley Hospital and Clinic
Washington

Pacifica Hospital of the Valley
California

Pleasant Valley Hospital
West Virginia

RMCHCS Hospital (AKA Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services)
New Mexico

Shepherd Center
Georgia

St. Anthony Regional Hospital
Iowa

St. Rose Hospital
California

St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
Ohio

Stilwell Memorial Hospital
Oklahoma

The Loretto Hospital
Illinois

West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital
Louisiana

Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center
Texas

Winona Health Services Hospital
Minnesota

Hospital Systems

Advocate Aurora Health
Illinois, Wisconsin

Allina Health
Minnesota

Aultman Health Foundation
Ohio

Atlantic Health System
New Jersery

Baptist Health System
Kentucky

Bon Secours Mercy Health
Kentucky, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia

CentraCare
Minnesota

Centra Health
Virginia

CHRISTUS Health
Texas

Cooper University Health Care
New Jersey

DHR Health
Texas

Drew Memorial Health System
Arkansas

Firelands Regional Medical Centers
Ohio

Good Shepherd Health Care System
Oregon

Hackensack Meridian Health
New Jersey

Hawaii Pacific Health
Hawaii

Henry Ford Health System
Michigan

Jefferson Health
New Jersey, Pennsylvania

Kuakini Health System
Hawaii

Lee Health
Florida

Legacy Health
Oregon, Washington

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
Tennessee

Mon Health System
West Virginia

Mountain Health Network
West Virginia

Oceans Healthcare
Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas

One Brooklyn Health System
New York

OSF Health
Illinois, Michigan

Piedmont Healthcare
Georgia

Pipeline Health
California, Illinois, Texas

ProMedica
Ohio, Michigan

Presbyterian Healthcare Services
New Mexico

Riverside Health System
Virginia

Summa Health System
Ohio

The Queen's Health Systems
Hawaii

TJ Regional Health
Kentucky

TriHealth
Ohio

Trinity Health
Michigan

University Hospitals Health System
Ohio

University of Rochester Medical Center
New York

WellSpan Health
Maryland, Pennsylvania

Additional Healthcare Entities

Post Acute Partners
New York

Tarzana Treatment Centers Inc
California