

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**

**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

**Florida**

Clay County Hospital

**Georgia**

Elbert Memorial Hospital  
Jeff Davis Hospital  
Liberty Regional Medical Center

**Idaho**

Bingham Memorial Hospital

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

Pulaski Memorial Hospital

**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

**Louisiana**

Bunkie General Hospital  
Reeves Memorial Medical Center  
Riverside Medical Center

**Minnesota**

Bigfork Valley  
Cook Hospital

**Mississippi**

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

Simpson General Hospital

**Montana**

Roosevelt Medical Center

**Nebraska**

Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health  
Center

Howard County Medical Center

Nemaha County Hospital

**New Mexico**

Holy Cross Medical Center

**Ohio**

Hocking Valley Community Hospital

Wyandot Memorial Hospital

**Texas**

Cogdell Memorial Hospital

Memorial Medical Center Port Lavaca

**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 Jersey

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

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