

July 28, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

The Critical Access Hospital Coalition, represented by the undersigned CAHs, urges Congress not to use Medicare funds as a pay for to advance other legislative initiatives. CAHs appreciate the efforts Congress and the Administration have made during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) to help hospitals care for patients, but now is not the time to reverse course and impose payment cuts on Critical Access Hospitals that are still struggling to care for patients.

The COVID-19 PHE continues and many of us are seeing cases increase, while we continue vaccination and testing programs, in addition to caring for patients who delayed care during the height of the pandemic. Simultaneously, CAHs have begun repaying the Medicare accelerated loans, as well as the Provider Relief Funds (PRF). Because of HRSA's restrictions on the ability of CAHs to use the PRF due our cost-based method of reimbursement, we face a looming threat of managing budget shortfalls as we begin to repay the PRF and wait for Medicare cost reports to be settled to pay for expenses that should have been reimbursed from the PRF.

On top of that, we understand that Congress is considering proposals to reclaim the remaining PRF funds that have yet to be distributed, as well as the \$8.5 billion in grants specifically designated for rural health care providers included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act. These funds, plus an extension of the mandatory Medicare sequestration, are reportedly being considered as a pay for in a new infrastructure bill.

CAHs were struggling before the PHE for reasons that have not abated during the pandemic. We urge you not to divert Medicare funds from us to pay for unrelated programs. Doing so could hasten the closure of more rural hospitals which would have a devastating impact on the rural residents in those communities.

We urge you to continue your support for rural health care providers and the patients we serve by finding other means of paying for non-health care proposals. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Alaska**

Bristol Bay Area Health  
Corporation/Kanakanak Hospital

**Arkansas**

Bradley County Medical Center  
Dallas County Medical Center  
Howard Memorial Hospital  
Ozarks Community Hospital

**Colorado**

Haxtun Health  
Kiowa County Hospital District  
Memorial Regional Health  
Sedgwick County Health Center

**Florida**

George E. Weems Memorial Hospital

**Georgia**

Elbert Memorial Hospital

**Illinois**

Clay County Hospital

**Indiana**

Pulaski Memorial Hospital

**Iowa**

Cass County Memorial Hospital  
Clarke County Hospital  
Loring Hospital

**Kansas**

Fredonia Regional Hospital  
Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center  
Smith County Memorial Hospital

**Kentucky**

Marcum & Wallace Hospital

**Louisiana**

Reeves Memorial Medical Center  
Riverside Medical Center

**Ohio**

Aultman Orrville Hospital  
Bucyrus, Galion and Ontario Hospitals  
Hocking Valley Community Hospital  
Mercy Health – Allen Hospital  
Mercy Health – Willard Hospital  
Mercy Health – Urbana Hospital

ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital  
ProMedica Fostoria Community Hospital

**Oklahoma**

Fairview Regional Medical Center

**Maine**

Down East Community Hospital  
Calais Community Hospital

**Minnesota**

CentraCare Health - Monticello  
CentraCare Health - Paynesville  
CentraCare Health Center - Sauk Centre  
CentraCare Health System - Long Prairie  
Cook Hospital & Care Center

**Michigan**

ProMedica Herrick Hospital

**Mississippi**

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

**Montana**

Pioneer Medical Center

**Nebraska**

Chase County Community Hospital  
Gordon Memorial Hospital District  
Kearney County Health Services  
Nemaha County Hospital  
Osmond General Hospital

**New Mexico**

Dr Dan C Trigg Memorial Hospital  
Holy Cross Medical Center  
Lincoln County Medical Center  
Socorro General Hospital

**Tennessee**

Marshall Medical Center

**Utah**

Central Valley Medical Center

**Virginia**

Page Memorial Hospital  
Rappahannock General Hospital  
Shenandoah Memorial Hospital

**Washington**

Garfield County Hospital  
Tri-State Memorial Hospital  
Pullman Regional Hospital  
Skyline Health

**West Virginia**

War Memorial Hospital, Berkeley Springs  
Romney Memorial Hospital, Romney

**Wisconsin**

The Richland Hospital, Inc.  
Tomah Health

**Contacts:**

Jennifer Kessel, President & Chief  
Executive Officer  
Aultman  
jennifer.kessel@aultman.com