

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Eric Hargan
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar and Deputy Secretary Hargan,

The challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis have put our nation, and especially our health care safety net, under tremendous strain. Congress and President Trump responded to this dire situation with the passage of Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Combined, these two bills directed \$175 billion for provider relief through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF).

We are grateful that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has moved quickly to distribute these funds to America's health care providers. Over the last few months, provider relief funding has been allocated to COVID high impact providers, skilled nursing facilities, Medicare safety net hospitals, the Indian Health Service, rural providers, and a general distribution based on net patient revenues. We recognize the complexity of this task and that HHS was asked to move quickly and direct funds accurately. In the best of circumstances this is difficult, and the challenge is greater when dealing with high-volume Medicaid providers for whom HHS has less data.

While we are thankful for your efforts, we remain concerned by the level of funding received by children's hospitals. To date, the Department has targeted allocations for unique and vulnerable groups, such as rural and high impact providers. Children's hospitals, however, have not received assistance comparable to other categories of health care providers.

Under state and federal guidance, children's hospitals have played an integral role in fighting COVID-19 by providing testing services, cancelling non-essential services, transforming facilities to care for children and adult COVID patients, and absorbing growing costs for personal protective equipment and other critical supplies. As a result, America's children's hospitals have experienced declines in revenue upwards of 40% and approximately \$2 billion per month in losses.

Therefore, we respectfully request an additional allocation for children's hospitals out of the remaining provider relief funds already appropriated by Congress. The children's hospitals in our communities are the pediatric health care safety net, delivering lifesaving care, conducting groundbreaking research, and partnering in the fight against COVID. Providing them with an additional allocation from the PHSSEF will ensure the continued safety of our children, families, and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

WARREN DAVIDSON
Member of Congress

JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

FRENCH HILL
Member of Congress

ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

LUCY MCBATH
Member of Congress

BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress

GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress

PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress

DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress

JOHN CURTIS
Member of Congress

STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress

SHARICE L. DAVIDS
Member of Congress

BRAD WENSTRUP, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress

ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress

STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress

RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress

DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress

JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress

BILLY LONG
Member of Congress

ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress

TROY BALDERSON
Member of Congress

MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress

KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress

DENVER RIGGLEMAN
Member of Congress

ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress

DAVID KUSTOFF
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress

THOMAS P. TIFFANY
Member of Congress

TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress

ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress

ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

JEFF FORTENBERRY
Member of Congress

JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress

JASON CROW
Member of Congress

JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress

ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

TOM EMMER
Member of Congress

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress

JOHN H. RUTHERFORD
Member of Congress

LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress

AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress

A. DREW FERGUSON, IV
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

JASON SMITH
Member of Congress

CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress

ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress

LAUREN UNDERWOOD
Member of Congress

BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress

ANDRÈ CARSON
Member of Congress

COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress

MIKE TURNER
Member of Congress