

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership and work to provide relief to the American people during the COVID-19 epidemic through the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With negotiations for the next COVID-19 relief package underway, we write to convey our strong support that future legislation includes a provision that forgives Medicare accelerated payments' interest rates and pursues full loan forgiveness for hospitals and other providers.

Our nations' hospitals have invested heavily to prepare for the pandemic. They canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help assure there is adequate hospital capacity, preserve gear and equipment, and reduce the risk of unnecessary patient spread. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

Without further support, hospitals will face another financial crisis just four months from now as the government begins to withhold Medicare payments for services provided after the pandemic fades and until the loans are repaid. While the \$175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, much more support is needed. In the absence of substantially more financial support, it is nearly certain that many hospitals will be forced to close or significantly reduce health care services over the next several months – and perhaps longer. This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future.

In addition to grant funding and new loan programs with zero or low interest rates, Congress should provide loan forgiveness to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need. Forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance

billing any patient for COVID-related treatment. In addition, Congress would mandate criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan forgiveness.

Emergency funding requests to combat the unprecedented times we face do not come lightly. We recognize the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund faces imminent concern necessitating a long-term financial solution, and Congress is committed to its solvency. Furthermore, we are also committed to providing timely aid and necessary relief for our hospital caregivers and providers. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work with you in every way to support the men and women on the frontline caring for those with the coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Max Rose
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mike Turner
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

James Comer
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman, P.E.
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
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David Scott
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Chris Pappas
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Christopher H. Smith
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David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
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Matthew Cartwright
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Jason Crow
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Tom Emmer
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Andy Kim
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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André Carson
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Albio Sires
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Haley M. Stevens
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Lucy McBath
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Paul Mitchell
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Jim Banks
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Daniel P. Meuser
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Ilhan Omar
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Ruben Gallego
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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress