



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

March 18, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, **I am writing to urge you to support and co-sponsor S. 748, the Medicare Sequester Relief Act.** This bipartisan legislation introduced by Sens. Shaheen (D-NH) and Collins (R-ME) would protect beneficiaries in the Medicare program by ensuring that payment cuts to providers are averted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congress extended the Medicare sequester moratorium until March 31 as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, which provided a temporary reprieve from the 2% across the board reduction in Medicare reimbursements. Catholic hospitals, long-term care facilities and other safety-net providers continue to face ongoing and financial challenges as they strive to respond to this unprecedented public health emergency and work to procure medical needs such as personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and vaccination supplies. While we remain optimistic that we are turning the corner on COVID-19 infections and deaths, we know that now is not the time to disrupt any federal support of our health providers.

We are grateful that Congress has understood the important role of health care providers and allocated critical support in the COVID-19 pandemic and economic legislation over the past year. We now ask for your support and co-sponsorship of **S. 748 the Medicare Sequester Relief Act**, which will prevent significant cuts in Medicare payments currently scheduled to take effect on April 1st. S. 748 will ensure the continuity of federal support that has been essential for many of our members to continue to care for patients during this unprecedented time.

As we all work to heal and support our communities during this pandemic, we express our hope that Congress will work together to protect and support our providers who care for them. **We again urge swift passage of the Medicare Sequester Relief Act that will prevent the loss of necessary resources to save lives and support families and communities.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO