



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

May 21, 2020

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

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

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

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, service providers and organizations, I urge you to move quickly to consider H.R. 6800, the Heroes Act passed last week in the House of Representatives.

Our Catholic health ministry has been working on the front lines since the beginning of the pandemic to treat those suffering from illness and to assist our communities in the both the health and economic battle against covid-19. We know from these efforts that a broad-based approach is absolutely necessary to assisting these efforts, and we commend the Senate for the approving the previous covid-19 supplemental bills. However, there are still many urgent needs for our nation's health providers that require immediate attention from Congress, and CHA believes that many provisions in the Heroes Act will help to meet those needs.

Specifically, as CHA outlined in our recent letter to the Senate regarding our priorities for additional legislation, we are seeking increased financial support and protection for our frontline health care facilities and providers; protection and expansion of health care coverage and access; and additional support for those who increasingly rely on the social safety net at this time.

The Heroes Act provides measures to meet these three key focus areas, including enhanced funding for rapid covid-19 testing and protective personal equipment for health care personnel; replenishment of the Public Health emergency fund and relief for Medicaid providers; re-opening of the health care Exchange and financial assistance for those losing employer-based coverage; and additional assistance for housing and nutrition programs that are helping to keep poor and vulnerable populations healthy during the pandemic. While H.R. 6800 does not address every priority for our health care ministry, it would provide a great deal of the assistance and resources our providers need to continue their vital work at this time. Quick action by the Senate to take up this legislation would greatly assist both Catholic health providers and all those who are working diligently to keep the American public safe and well.

We urge you again to take swift action in consideration of the Heroes Act, and please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of CHA's advocacy staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO