



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Chair, Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo:

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 express our strong support for the Patient Access Protection Act (H.R. 3022, sponsored by Rep. Eliot Engel), which is being considered by the subcommittee. H.R. 3022 would permanently repeal the mandated cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2020.

The Medicaid DSH program serves as a primary source of support for safety net hospitals that serve the most vulnerable populations – Medicaid beneficiaries, low-income Medicare beneficiaries, the uninsured and the underinsured. DSH payments partially compensate hospitals for costs resulting from providing uncompensated care and many hospitals rely on Medicaid DSH payments to be able to keep their doors open. These funds also support many critical community services at our hospitals such as trauma and burn care, obstetrics and high-risk neonatal care and psychiatric services.

DSH funding reductions were included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because the law was designed to significantly reduce the number of uninsured in the U.S., which in turn would reduce hospital uncompensated care costs. Unfortunately, not all states have embraced the Medicaid expansion, which negatively impacted the coverage gains envisioned under the ACA. Therefore, it is critical to adopt this legislation repealing the DSH funding reductions while also promoting legislation and policies that increase coverage for the nation's poor and vulnerable.

We look forward to working with you and all Members of Congress to support this bill and other ways to ensure that everyone will have access to genuinely affordable and comprehensive health care as intended under the ACA.

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC  
President and CEO

CC: Rep. Eliot Engel  
Members of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health