



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

September 17, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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 encourage you to include language in the Continuing Resolution (CR) that eliminates the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) reductions slated to begin on December 1 of this year. Congress has previously acknowledged the harm these cuts would cause by providing various delays and we now ask that the CR include language eliminating the DSH reductions for FY 2021 and beyond.

During this unprecedented public health and economic crisis, funding for Medicaid DSH must be protected. 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 nearly half of our nation’s Catholic 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 that are vital during the pandemic and other natural disasters including trauma and burn care, obstetrics and high-risk neonatal care and psychiatric services.

We have long valued the partnership with the federal government and states through Medicaid that has allowed our hospitals and health systems to serve our most vulnerable. We urge you to include elimination of the scheduled DSH cuts in the CR so that our members can continue their vital mission to heal our communities. Thank you for your continued work to strengthen Medicaid.

Sincerely,


Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO

CC: House and Senate Appropriations Committees