



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

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

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers and organizations, I urge you to ensure the continuation of critical health care access and coverage in an end of year package or other must pass legislation.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- **Invest in policies that will ensure the stability of our workforce and address the financial crisis of our hospitals and long-term care facilities, including:**
  - **Eliminating the pending 4% Medicare Pay-As-You-Go sequester from taking effect early next year;**
  - **Establishing a temporary per diem Medicare payment to cover longer stay patients;**
  - **Fully funding workforce training programs for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals; and**
  - **Addressing prior authorization issues in Medicare Advantage.**

Catholic health care providers have been at the front line of our nation's health care response to the pandemic since 2020. Challenges with COVID, the flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), as well as increased labor, drug, and supply costs—compounded by shortages of nurses, medical staff and supplies—have created ongoing and unsustainable negative margins and workforce burnout in our hospitals and long-term care facilities across the country. As a result, our health care facilities are being forced to make drastic cuts, including to critical community health care services.

- **Extend current telehealth waivers for two years** to allow Congress to continue to evaluate and work on a permanent expansion of telehealth programs and ensure continued access to care for rural and underserved communities.
- **Establish 12-month Medicaid postpartum coverage and Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance continuous coverage for children as nationwide and permanent federal benefits** to address maternal mortality and improve the health and well-being of mothers, babies, and children. CBO estimates that approximately 45% of women on Medicaid will become uninsured after the currently required 60 days postpartum coverage ends, and studies have shown that a third of maternal deaths occur between one week to a year after childbirth.

As Catholic health care providers, we are committed to reducing health disparities, promoting health equity and ensuring that everyone in our nation has access to affordable health care. We urge you to include these important priorities as Congress finishes their work this year and thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

  
Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO