



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Sen. Rosen and Rep. 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 would like to thank you for introducing the *Ensuring Understanding of Covid-19 to Protect Public Health Act* (S. 3595/H.R. 6701) and express our support for this legislation.

Catholic health facilities have been at the forefront of responding to the current pandemic and providing care for those suffering from covid-19. The mission of our healing ministry and commitment to serving everyone in our nation make Catholic health providers a crucial resource in our response to the global pandemic. As we continue to serve those affected by it, we also are keenly aware that once the pandemic ebbs its terrible effects will linger for years in many of those suffering from covid-19.

Your legislation would authorize a longitudinal study of a diverse set of covid-19 patients to ensure that we are able to gain a full understanding of the disease, including long-term health impacts and the best options for treating it. Such an understanding will be essential to ensuring that health providers such as ours are able to best meet the needs of covid-19 survivors in the future. We are particularly pleased that your bill would require diversity among enrollees to account for gender, age, race, ethnicity, geography, co-morbidities and underrepresented populations, including pregnant and lactating women. As you know, these vulnerable groups have suffered disproportionately from the coronavirus and undoubtedly will prove to be more susceptible to its long-term effects.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation and if you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of our advocacy staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Mary Haddad".

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO