



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

December 1, 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:

As members of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) Board of Trustees, we urge you to ensure critical health care access and coverage in the year-end omnibus appropriations legislation.

Specifically, we urge 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.**

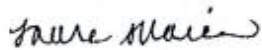
Over the last two and half years, Catholic health care providers have been at the front line of our nation's health care response to the pandemic. The continuing challenges of the covid surge this summer, as well as increased labor, drug, and supply costs—compounded by shortages of nurses, medical staff and supplies—has 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.

- **Establish 12-month Medicaid postpartum coverage and Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance continuous coverage for children as required 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.
- **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.

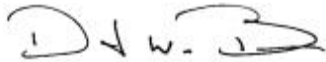
As Catholic health care providers and trustees of CHA, the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers and organizations, we are committed to reducing health disparities, promoting health equity and ensuring that everyone in our nation has access to affordable health care. We urge you to include these important priorities in the legislation being considered in Congress and thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

CHA Board of Trustees



Laura S. Kaiser, BS, MBA, MHA, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
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Chair, CHA Board of Trustees



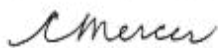
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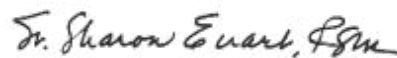
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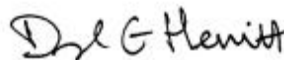
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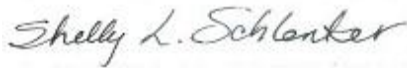
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