April 17, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

Thank you for your department’s efforts to distribute the $100 billion fund provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for health care providers. We urge you to support Medicaid providers in the next tranche of funds to cover unreimbursed health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The CARES Act specifies that this funding should benefit all types of health care providers including hospitals, public entities, nonprofit entities, and Medicare and Medicaid enrolled suppliers and institutional providers. On April 10, 2020, your department began distributing an initial $30 billion from this fund based on providers’ share of 2019 Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements.

We appreciate that hospitals on the front lines of this crisis received a large share of this desperately needed funding. However, health care providers in our districts with low Medicare volumes – including community health centers (CHCs), children’s hospitals, and certain nonprofit health care providers– have also been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

These providers desperately need more financial support to continue caring for our underserved communities. It is estimated that over the next six months due to COVID-19, CHCs will complete 34 million fewer regular appointments, leading to losses of $7.6 billion in revenue and 100,500 jobs.¹ Meanwhile, they are experiencing or preparing for a surge of patients requiring testing and treatment for COVID-19. While we support additional appropriations to meet these needs, we must ensure they receive their fair share of existing funds in the near term.

Your department has stated that it intends to distribute the remaining $70 billion based on other criteria, including “providers of services with lower shares of Medicare reimbursement or who predominantly serve the Medicaid population.”² We express our support for swiftly allocating the next tranche of funds based on Medicaid volumes. Our providers cannot wait any longer for relief.

² https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress

/s/
JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress

/s/
ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

/s/
TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

/s/
BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

/s/
RUBEN GALLEGOS
Member of Congress

/s/
AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

/s/
JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

/s/
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

/s/
DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress

/s/
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

/s/
DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress

/s/
PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress

/s/
HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress

/s/
KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

/s/
TJ COX
Member of Congress
/s/
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

/s/
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress

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DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

/s/
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

/s/
CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress

/s/
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
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ELAINE G. LURIA
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/s/
XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
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/s/
JASON CROW
Member of Congress

/s/
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

/s/
MAX ROSE
Member of Congress

/s/
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

/s/
ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

/s/
FILEMON VELA
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JAMES P. MCGOVERN
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GILBERT R. CISNEROS JR.
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DINA TITUS
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JUDY CHU
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ANTONIO DELGADO
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/s/
DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress

/s/
JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress
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STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

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C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
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MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
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JOSH HARDER
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SHEILA JACKSON LEE
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/s/
DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

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ED CASE
Member of Congress

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TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

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JAMES R. LANGEVIN
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GWEN MOORE
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WILLIAM R. KEATING
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SUSAN WILD
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DONALD M. PAYNE JR.
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MARCIA L. FUDGE
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SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
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RASHIDA TLAIB
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TED W. LIEU
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/s/
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

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FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress

/s/
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

/s/
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress