

AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

February 25, 2021

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

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

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

As representatives of our nation's hospitals and health systems, we write to express our appreciation for the support our hospitals, health care workers, and most importantly, our patients, have received from Congress during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work and the commitment endure, yet our hospitals and health systems continue to encounter economic challenges in the midst of this unprecedented public health emergency. We therefore urge Congress to provide additional funding for health care providers in the current reconciliation package, such as the legislative proposal put forward by Senator Manchin for a Health Care Heroes Sustainability Fund, as well as additional resources to support efforts to bolster vaccine administration, enhanced testing and other priorities that support the essential work of our hospitals.

Congress last year allocated \$178 billion to all types of health care providers through the Provider Relief Fund to help offset lost revenues, as well as additional expenses incurred due to purchasing supplies and equipment, staffing, establishing emergency testing and vaccination centers and constructing and retrofitting facilities. To date, the bulk of this funding has either been distributed or allocated for payments to account for losses incurred into the first quarter of this year. However, we anticipate financial challenges will persist for America's hospitals and health systems, with more financial impact expected due to the ongoing pandemic. According to reports released by the American Hospital Association, hospitals were projected to lose at least \$323.1 billion through the end of 2020, with additional projected losses this year of as much as \$122 billion.

Our hospitals and health systems remain committed to caring for patients throughout the pandemic. But we need additional funding to both participate in the vaccination efforts as well as care for large numbers of critically ill patients, maintain sufficient staffing and continue to acquire enough personal protective equipment and other resources necessary to do this critical work.

Thank you for your ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and your support for our nation's hospitals and providers. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the nation recovers from this unprecedented public health event.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Premier healthcare alliance
Vizient, Inc.