

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Thank you for your leadership and work to provide relief to the American people during the COVID-19 epidemic through the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With negotiations for the next COVID-19 relief package underway, we write to convey our strong support that future legislation includes a provision that forgives Medicare accelerated payments' interest rates and pursues full loan forgiveness for hospitals and other providers.

Our nations' hospitals have invested heavily to prepare for the pandemic. They canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help assure there is adequate hospital capacity, preserve gear and equipment, and reduce the risk of unnecessary patient spread. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

Without further support, hospitals will face another financial crisis just four months from now as the government begins to withhold Medicare payments for services provided after the pandemic fades and until the loans are repaid. While the \$175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, much more support is needed. In the absence of substantially more financial support, it is nearly certain that many hospitals will be forced to close or significantly reduce health care services over the next several months – and perhaps longer. This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future.

In addition to grant funding and new loan programs with zero or low interest rates, Congress should provide loan forgiveness to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need. Forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance

billing any patient for COVID-related treatment. In addition, Congress would mandate criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan forgiveness.

Emergency funding requests to combat the unprecedented times we face do not come lightly. We recognize the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund faces imminent concern necessitating a long-term financial solution, and Congress is committed to its solvency. Furthermore, we are also committed to providing timely aid and necessary relief for our hospital caregivers and providers. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work with you in every way to support the men and women on the frontline caring for those with the coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Max Rose  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Mike Turner  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

James Comer  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Colin Allred  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Doug Collins  
Member of Congress

Matthew Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
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Elissa Slotkin  
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John Moolenaar  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
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Joseph D. Morelle  
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Rick Crawford  
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Lucy McBath  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Fred Upton  
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Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Carolyn B. Maloney  
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Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Daniel P. Meuser  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
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G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress