



January 13, 2014

Reject Extension of Medicare Sequestration Cuts

Dear Senator Reid:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals (NAUH) urges you to reject the current proposal to fund the extension of emergency unemployment payments by extending Medicare sequestration cuts for another year.

The nation's private, non-profit urban safety-net hospitals have already been subjected to a number of Medicare cuts in recent years. This year they face a number of reductions, including (but not limited to) cuts to Medicare DSH, and last month's budget compromise, while alleviating the burden of federal spending cuts many areas, did not reduce the two percent across-the-board Medicare cuts – in fact, it extended them for another two years.

Urban safety-net hospitals have repeatedly had such financial sacrifices demanded of them and are struggling to accommodate these cuts. Yet another cut in the compensation urban safety-net hospitals receive for caring for the nation's elderly would further jeopardize the ability of these hospitals to serve their communities. We urge you to reject further Medicare cuts to fund extended unemployment payments, a potential fix to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) problem, or for any other purpose because of the harm they would cause for urban safety-net hospitals.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

