



National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

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

The National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals greatly appreciates the leadership Congress has shown in its response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the specific steps it has taken to support the work hospitals are doing to help our country through this extraordinary time. Thank you for your leadership and your ongoing attention.

Now, we wish to convey our strong support for legislation that is currently being negotiated that we understand will include an additional \$75 billion in grants for hospitals. This funding is greatly needed: our members report to us that in many cases their share of the initial distribution of \$30 billion from the \$100 billion designated by the CARES Act for health care providers covered less than two weeks of lost revenue resulting from the suspension of non-urgent procedures and none of the increased expenses associated with treating COVID-19 patients.

Private safety-net hospitals such as ours entered this historic period at a distinct disadvantage – under-endowed, less cash on hand, higher proportions of government-insured patients – and those disadvantages have been magnified by the high cost of treating COVID-19 patients and the loss of revenue to pay for that care. In addition, many of these hospitals have found themselves in the midst of COVID-19 “hot spots” and have stepped up, with the help of their courageous workforce and the additional resources you provided, to serve their communities with distinction.

For these reasons, NASH supports legislation that would include another \$75 billion for hospitals. In addition, we hope you will urge the administration to distribute, in the next few days, the remaining \$70 billion of the \$100 billion you designated for hospitals and health care providers in the CARES Act.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Kugler
Executive Director

cc: Leaders of the House Ways and Means Committee
Leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
Leaders of the Senate Finance Committee

