

June 30, 2020

Alex M. Azar
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

The National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals thanks you for your department's public indication that you intend to extend the COVID-19 public health emergency.

While it is unfortunate that we continue to battle this aggressive virus, the flexibilities that you, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others in the federal government have granted health care providers during this crisis have made an extraordinary difference in our ability to serve our communities during these difficult times – not just our COVID-19 patients but our other patients as well. As we are now seeing, we have not yet overcome this challenge, and the extension of these flexibilities, made possible by the declaration of a public health emergency, will enable us to continue meeting the needs of our communities and eventually, to overcome COVID-19.

We appreciate the gravity of a decision like this and thank you for making it.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Kugler
Executive Director

