



September 14, 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
Democratic 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 is grateful for everything you and your colleagues in Congress have done to help health care providers serve their communities in these most challenging of times. While much of this recent activity involves the response to the COVID-19 emergency, we write to you today about another challenge: the looming implementation of reductions to Medicaid DSH state allotments.

As Congress considers a Continuing Resolution for the beginning of FY 2021, NASH urges you to include in it a provision that eliminates Affordable Care Act-mandated cuts in Medicaid disproportionate share (Medicaid DSH) allocations to the states.

The Medicaid DSH cut was predicated on the expectation that the Affordable Care Act would greatly reduce the number of uninsured Americans, and while it has, millions remain uninsured. Just this week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the number of Americans without health insurance rose in 2019 – for the third consecutive year – and the job loss associated with COVID-19 is expected to continue this trend in 2020. As a result, private safety-net hospitals and others like them, serving communities with large numbers of low-income and uninsured residents, have never needed the resources afforded by Medicaid DSH more than they do today. Congress has always questioned the wisdom of this cut and has never allowed those cuts to go into effect. The most recent delay expires after November 30.

For these reasons, we encourage you to include in any future Continuing Resolution a provision permanently repealing the Affordable Care Act's reduction of Medicaid DSH allocations to the states.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you may have about the National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals or our perspective on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
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