**National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals**

December 4, 2020

# Remember Hospitals in COVID-19 Relief Legislation

Dear Senator McConnell:

The National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals appreciates everything you and your colleagues in Congress have done, and continue to do, to help private safety-net hospitals and others like us serve our communities during this unprecedented public health crisis. Now, as you consider additional COVID-19 relief legislation before this session of Congress adjourns, we turn to you again for assistance.

Private safety-net hospitals continue to work on the front lines of this pandemic, serving generally low-income communities that have been especially hard hit with large numbers of COVID-19 cases. We are proud of the work we have done and the lives we have helped save, and you can give us a much-needed helping hand by providing additional support in this latest legislation.

Specifically, we seek your assistance in three areas:

1. Please allocate additional resources for the Provider Relief Fund. Our expenses remain high and our revenue remains diminished and we need such resources to continue our important work.
2. Please extend the current relief from the two percent Medicare sequestration mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011.
3. Please ensure that any scheduled cuts in federal payments to health care providers, such as the Medicaid DSH cuts that will take effect on December 12, are not implemented at this crucial time.

As you know, we are currently in the midst of an exponential increase in the number of COVID-19 cases we are treating and this surge is taxing both our resources and our stressed, overworked caregivers. We cannot meet this challenge without your support.

We appreciate very much how you have stepped up and helped private safety-net hospitals and the low-income communities we serve in this time of crisis, look forward to your continued support, and welcome any questions you may have about the work we are doing and the needs we have articulated.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director