

June 10, 2021

**Please Co-Sponsor H.R. 3203 to Protect Safety-Net Hospitals' Eligibility
for the 340B Prescription Drug Discount Program**

Dear Rep. Kilmer:

The National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals appreciates everything Congress is doing to help private safety-net hospitals serve their diverse, predominantly low-income communities during the COVID-19 emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a reduction in hospitals' admissions as people deferred addressing their medical problems out of fear of contracting the virus. These reduced admissions, a one-year anomaly, could affect safety-net hospitals' eligibility to continue participating in the federal 340B prescription drug discount program, which is an essential tool for helping hospitals provide low-cost prescription drugs to their low-income outpatients in the communities they serve. Through this program, covered entities receive significant discounts on the prescription drugs their low-income patients need, enabling participating providers to stretch scarce resources in service to the communities that depend on them.

Two of your colleagues, Representatives Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Chris Stewart (R-Utah), have introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3203) that would temporarily enable hospitals to retain their 340B eligibility until hospitals' inpatient volume returns to normal and they can demonstrate whether they meet the criteria to continue participating in the 340B program. Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) have introduced a companion bill, S. 773. 340B is a great and worthy program that helps safety-net hospitals meet the needs of their low-income communities and we urge you to join Representatives Matsui and Stewart and co-sponsor their bill and advocate its passage among your colleagues.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you may have about it.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

