



**ALLIANCE of
SAFETY-NET
HOSPITALS**

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Dear Leader Schumer:

As the 117th Congress draws to a close, I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals (ASH) to remind you about three issues that are of the utmost importance to us that we hope you will address before this session ends.

First, without Congress's action, a new, additional four percent Medicare sequestration cut will take effect on January 1. This would be devastating to community safety-net hospitals and the generally low-income, medically vulnerable communities these hospitals serve. These providers are struggling to regain their equilibrium from an unprecedented combination of challenging economic circumstances and this additional four percent reduction – over and above the existing two percent sequestration cut – would be devastating and unsustainable. We appreciate how you have supported the mission of these hospitals and ***we trust you will work to prevent implementation of the additional four percent sequestration cut in 2023.***

Second, we urge you to protect physicians from the 4.5 percent reduction of Medicare payments to physicians scheduled to take effect on January 1; this reduction would be in addition to the four percent sequestration cut. You provided similar relief last year and hope you will do so again this year.

Third, we hope Congress will finish work on legislation to streamline the process Medicare Advantage plans employ when issuing prior authorization for medical services. We hope you will support ***S. 3108, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act***, a bill co-sponsored by more than half the Senate. We urge you to ensure that Congress completes work on this much-needed bill before the end of the year so hospitals like ours can provide timely, quality care to our many Medicare Advantage patients.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests on behalf of community safety-net hospitals and the communities these hospitals serve and welcome any questions you may have about these three issues.

Sincerely,

**Kate Finkelstein
Legislative Affairs**