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March 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Democratic Leader Jeffries, and Republican Leader McConnell:

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals, a group of community safety-net hospitals that serve especially large numbers of uninsured and publicly insured patients, to thank you for helping to ensure that essential health extenders were included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024.

We are especially grateful for two specific measures in the legislation: one that extends the delay of scheduled cuts in Medicaid disproportionate share (Medicaid DSH) allotments to the states through the end of 2024 and another that restores some of the Medicare payments to physicians previously reduced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in its Medicare physician fee schedule for 2024.

Both extenders mean a great deal to community safety-net hospitals – hospitals that serve especially large numbers of Medicare and Medicaid uninsured patients and smaller numbers of privately insured patients than the typical hospital. Medicaid DSH payments are absolutely critical to the ability of community safety-net hospitals to continue meeting the needs of the low-income communities they serve. Similarly, adequate Medicare reimbursement for physicians is vital, especially for those who practice in low-income communities with large numbers of publicly insured patients.

We greatly appreciate your role in ensuring that these important protections for the vulnerable patients served by community safety-net hospitals were included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024. Your actions will make a real difference in the lives of so many of the patients we serve.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein
Director, Federal Government Relations