



**ALLIANCE of
SAFETY-NET
HOSPITALS**

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Protect Patients from Damaging Cuts Before the End of the Year

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals (ASH) to **thank you** for your continued hard work and dedication to the communities you represent.

Specifically, **we are grateful that preventing \$8 billion in cuts to Medicaid DSH payments, counteracting a nearly three percent cut to Medicare physician payments, and ensuring patients can continue to receive care via telehealth have all been key year-end priorities.**

- Medicaid DSH is a vital tool for helping community safety-net hospitals and others care for the residents of the economically vulnerable communities they serve. The hospitals that serve such communities rely heavily on Medicaid DSH for support in providing that care and Medicaid DSH payments are essential for their survival. Congress has never allowed these cuts to occur, and **we hope we can rely on you again to eliminate the \$8 billion Medicaid DSH cut scheduled to begin on January 1.**
- As you know, Medicare physicians face a 2.8 percent payment reduction on January 1. For the past four years when doctors have faced similar pay cuts, Congress has recognized the impact of those cuts in the midst of a workforce crisis and has lessened the size of the cuts. **We urge you to eliminate the 2025 reduction to Medicare doctors before January 1.**
- Finally, **unless Congress acts before January 1, patients will lose expanded access to medical care via telehealth and the hospital-at-home program.** Since 2020, patients have come to rely on the ability to receive care from their homes and Congress has protected that flexibility. Patients across the country are counting on Congress to preserve their access to care.

Please stress to your Congressional leaders that relief from Medicaid DSH cuts and physician payment cuts, along with continued access to remote health care, must be addressed before the end of this year.

The Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals appreciates your continued support for the communities you represent.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein
Director of Federal Government Relations