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June 20, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Chairman Crapo, Senator Collins, and Senator Scott:

The Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals urges you to protect those hospitals that provide the most care to Medicaid recipients whether they serve rural or non-rural communities.

Across the country, community safety-net hospitals meet their mission of being there to care for the most vulnerable among us, carefully managing impossibly fragile budgets. As released, the Senate reconciliation bill would have profoundly damaging consequences for all safety-net hospitals serving vulnerable communities – hospitals that are committed to making and keeping America healthy. The Senate bill would reduce the number of Americans with health care coverage by the millions and bottom-out the resources that safety-net hospitals need to keep the doors open to serve their communities and to provide stable, well-paying jobs.

We appreciate your recognition that some hospitals need extra support, and we agree with you and have long advocated for targeted policies in recognition of the systemic inadequacies of government payers. Throughout the country, there are hospitals in non-rural and rural areas where upwards of 70 percent of patients rely on Medicaid and Medicare for health care coverage. The cuts to Medicaid included in this bill threaten the very existence of those hospitals and if those hospitals close, their fall will eliminate access to health care and access to health care-related jobs.

All safety-net hospitals, regardless of location, need support and stability. ASH is concerned that a supplemental provider relief fund will further complicate the financing patchwork these hospitals are forced

to create to stay afloat and will be insufficient to the task of filling the budget holes created by the Senate's Medicaid legislation.

The Alliance of Safety-net Hospitals stands ready to partner with policy makers to protect the hospitals that care for our country's most vulnerable patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EKugler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ellen Kugler  
Executive Director

