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January 21, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Chairman Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals (ASH) expresses its strong support for the health care extenders package included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Our member hospitals deliver vital, life-saving care to hardworking families, rural residents, and individuals with complex medical needs. Continued, dependable, and long-term federal funding for the health care programs extended in this package is essential; without significant extensions — or permanent solutions — safety-net hospitals struggle to plan for the future and the patients who depend on safety-net hospitals risk losing access to critical services—putting both their health and the stability of their communities in jeopardy.

ASH urges Congress to pass the health care extenders included in the spending package. Specifically, we support:

- **Extensions to telehealth services** through the end of 2027 to ensure Medicare patients in both rural and urban communities can access timely, high quality health care appointments without mobility barriers.
- **Elimination of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment cuts** for FY 2026 and 2027, and a delay to cuts scheduled for FY 2028. Medicaid DSH payments are used to support critical hospital services in both rural and urban areas of the country.

- **Extensions to the Medicare Acute Hospital Care at Home program** through the end of September 2030.
- **Delayed Expiration of the Medicare Low-Volume Hospital Program** until the end of calendar year (CY) 2026.

ASH remains ready to work alongside you as this legislation moves forward. We are grateful for your leadership and your unwavering commitment to the patients and communities we serve. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and ultimately seeing these important health care programs given extended life.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein
Federal Affairs

Cc: Members of the United States Senate
Members of the United States House of Representatives

