



California's Community Safety Net Hospitals
Essential to Access, Essential to Health
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals
PEACH

April 8, 2020

Dear Member of Congress:

PEACH – Private Essential Access Community Hospitals of California – appreciates very much the role of California's delegation in Congress's designation of \$100 billion in the CARES Act for health care providers to help them with the cost of the investments they needed to make to prepare for the expected influx of COVID-19 patients and to help with cash flow problems arising from the loss of revenue associated with suspending elective procedures. The first part of this aid, which we expect to start seeing in the coming days, will make a difference for California's community safety net hospitals and for that we are most grateful to you.

The needs created by the pandemic, however, remain great and are growing, so PEACH asks you to support additional financial assistance to health care providers in the next coronavirus response bill that is reportedly being discussed

In particular, it has become clear that a growing number of uninsured Americans will be treated for COVID-19 and some of the \$100 billion Congress designated for health care providers will be used to help pay for that care. Naturally, we support efforts to pay for care for the uninsured, but doing so will not help with the dire needs the original \$100 billion was intended to address. Private California safety net hospitals still need financial assistance if they are to keep their lights on, the supplies coming in, and their teams of courageous caregivers paid. These hospitals, many of which care for especially high proportions of Medicaid patients and many of which are unusually dependent on government payers for their revenue, are at an especially disadvantageous position at this time. Already cash-poor, they don't have the reserves and resources that other hospitals have to bridge the funding gap and they need the level of supplemental funding Congress envisioned when it designated \$100 billion for health care providers in any future legislation responding to the COVID-19 emergency – and need this additional assistance quickly.

For these reasons, PEACH encourages California's congressional delegation to work to include additional funding for health care providers in any future legislation responding to the COVID-19 emergency – and to pass such legislation very soon. The continued ability of California community hospitals to serve the many Medicaid and Medicare patients in the low-income communities they serve may very well depend on it.

Sincerely,

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