



Private
Essential
Access
Community
Hospitals

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

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

PEACH — Private Essential Access Community Hospitals of California — appreciates everything you have done, and continue to do, to help hospitals like ours, and our whole country, during this most devastating COVID-19 pandemic. Your leadership during this challenging time has been extraordinary. We especially appreciate your most recent success: including in the Continuing Resolution relief for hospitals from some of the more onerous aspects of their repayment of funds from the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program and another delay in the implementation of cuts in Medicaid disproportionate share allotments to the states. We thank you for these provisions.

As you turn your attention back to COVID-19 relief, PEACH hopes you will direct that such legislation includes much-needed assistance for many of California's private safety-net hospitals. So many of these safety-net hospitals, which serve especially large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients, were left behind and did not receive targeted distributions directed to safety-net providers, high-impact hospitals, or rural providers. These vulnerable hospitals started with fewer resources than others at the beginning of the pandemic and now are in worse financial positions than they were in January. Among those private California safety-net hospitals left behind were a 700-bed hospital that is the fifth-largest Medicaid provider in the entire country and a 480-bed hospital where 75 percent of its patients are insured by Medicaid or Medicare. Nearly 100 of California's critically necessary hospitals find themselves in this same situation.

These and other private safety-net hospitals deserve targeted assistance from the Provider Relief Fund because of the significant role they play in caring for low-income, uninsured, and Medicaid-covered Californians. They truly are safety-net hospitals and should be treated that way by the Provider Relief Fund.

To address this problem, PEACH urges you to include in the next COVID-19 relief bill a provision that requires the administration to provide targeted assistance from the Provider Relief Fund to every hospital in the country that is a "deemed DSH hospital" that has not already received targeted funding from the Provider Relief Fund. Doing so would ensure that hospitals like the ones noted above, and others like them across the country, receive the assistance they need to help them through the most difficult health care environment our country has faced in more than a century.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you may have about it.

Sincerely,

Anne McLeod
President and CEO