



Private
Essential
Access
Community
Hospitals

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

December 19, 2022

Dear Senator Padilla:

As the 117th Congress draws to a close, I am writing on behalf of the Private Essential-Access Community Hospitals (PEACH) to remind you about two issues that are of the utmost importance to us that we hope you will address in the FY 2023 omnibus spending legislation.

First, without Congress's action, a new, additional four percent Medicare sequestration cut will take effect on January 1. This would be devastating to California's community safety-net hospitals and the generally low-income, medically vulnerable communities these hospitals serve. These providers are struggling to regain their equilibrium from an unprecedented combination of challenging economic circumstances and this additional four percent reduction – over and above the existing two percent sequestration cut – would be devastating and unsustainable. We appreciate how you have supported the mission of these hospitals and ***we trust you will work to prevent implementation of the additional four percent sequestration cut in 2023.***

Second, we hope Congress will finish work on legislation to streamline the process Medicare Advantage plans employ when issuing prior authorization for medical services. We appreciate your support for ***S. 3108, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act***, a bill co-sponsored by more than half the Senate. We urge you to ensure that Congress completes work on this much-needed bill before the end of the year so hospitals like ours can provide timely, quality care to our many Medicare Advantage patients.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests on behalf of California's community safety-net hospitals and the communities these hospitals serve and welcome any questions you may have about these three issues.

Sincerely,

Anne McLeod
President and CEO