May 13, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to express our concern regarding the impact of impending cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2019. Medicaid DSH payments allow hospitals nationwide to treat our most vulnerable Americans. We urge you to take action to delay these cuts for at least two years.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Congress created Medicaid DSH payments to sustain hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of low-income and uninsured patients. In treating those who have nowhere else to turn, these hospitals incur uncompensated costs. Furthermore, these same hospitals typically operate on very narrow, or even negative, margins. Medicaid DSH payments allow them to continue serving our constituents and communities. Medicaid DSH payments not only support hospitals in cities across the country, these payments are also especially important to rural hospitals, which often face added financial burdens.

Since 2013, Congress has recognized the importance of Medicaid DSH payments by delaying cuts to the program four different times, most recently The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 delayed the start of the reductions until FY 2020.

Should Congress fail to delay the cuts scheduled to begin on October 1, safety net hospitals will face a financial shortfall of $4 billion in FY 2020. These cuts will grow to $8 billion in FY 2021.

Our nation’s hospitals cannot sustain losses of this magnitude. Institutions will be forced to shutter, leaving our constituents and communities without a vital safeguard.

Until a more sustainable, permanent solution is reached, we ask that you work to delay these cuts for at least two fiscal years. This delay will ensure that hospitals can continue to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress

William Timmons  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Colin Allred  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Katie Hill  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress

David Trone  
Member of Congress

Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Joseph Morelle  
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress
Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

Ed Case  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
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Randy K. Weber
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Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Neal Dunn, M.D.
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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress