



April 8, 2020

### **Support Additional Funding for Health Care Providers**

Dear Senator Casey:

The Safety-Net Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) appreciates very much the role our state's delegation played 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 big difference for us and for that we are most grateful to you.

The needs created by the pandemic, however, remain great and are growing, so SNAP asks you to provide additional financial assistance to health care providers in the next coronavirus response bill reportedly being negotiated at this time.

In particular, it has become clear that a growing number of uninsured Americans, many of them Pennsylvanians, will be treated for COVID-19, and some of the \$100 billion designated for health care providers will be used to help pay for that care. Naturally, SNAP supports 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 safety-net hospitals like those that belong to SNAP still need additional financial assistance as continue their fight against COVID-19. 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. In any future legislation responding to the COVID-19 emergency, they need the level of supplemental funding you envisioned when you and your colleagues designated \$100 billion for health care providers in the CARES Act – and they need this additional assistance quickly.

For these reasons, SNAP encourages you to work with your colleagues in Congress 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 Pennsylvania's private safety-net hospitals to serve the many Medicaid and Medicare patients in the low-income communities they serve may very well depend on it.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein  
Legislative Liaison, Federal Affairs

