



April 21, 2020

Please Support New Legislation With Additional COVID-19 Funding for Hospitals

Dear Senator Toomey:

The Safety-Net Association of Pennsylvania, a coalition of private safety-net hospitals that provide 40 percent of Medicaid-covered hospital inpatient care in our state, greatly appreciates the leadership you and Pennsylvania's congressional delegation have shown in your response to the COVID-19 emergency and the specific steps you have taken to support the work hospitals are doing to help our state and our country through this extraordinary time. Thank you for your leadership and your continuing attention.

Now, we wish to convey our strong support for legislation that is currently being negotiated that we understand will include an additional \$75 billion in grants for hospitals.

This funding is greatly needed: between the revenue they have lost by canceling non-urgent procedures and the additional costs involved in caring for COVID-19 patients, who require much more resources to treat than the average hospital patient, Pennsylvania hospitals have already lost tens of millions of dollars and are on a clear path toward losing billions before this pandemic is arrested. Such a situation is especially challenging for private safety-net hospitals such as ours, which entered this historic period at a distinct disadvantage: under-endowed, less cash on hand, and higher proportions of government-insured patients. In addition, many of these hospitals have found themselves in the midst of areas that have been hit especially hard by COVID-19 outbreaks and have stepped up, with the help of their courageous workforce and the additional resources you provided, to serve their communities with distinction.

For these reasons, SNAP supports the COVID-19 legislation you will soon be considering that would provide another \$75 billion for hospitals.

We greatly appreciate everything you are doing, and have done, to help our fellow Pennsylvanians through this once-in-a-lifetime crisis.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein
Legislative Liaison, Federal Affairs

