

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
H-232 US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204 US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As Congress considers additional legislation to address the COVID-19 crisis, we strongly urge the inclusion of relief specifically dedicated for children's hospitals.

While we are still learning how COVID-19 affects children, this pandemic has had a profoundly negative impact on the national network of pediatric health care providers. These hospitals treat chronically and acutely ill infants and children; provide care to children with disabilities and complex medical conditions; and also serve as hubs for specialized pediatric training and research discovery. Our nation's children's hospitals impact the health and well-being of every child in the U.S. and serve as the safety-net provider for millions of children.

Following the first U.S. cases of COVID-19 in January, the Surgeon General and many state governors requested that all hospitals cancel or reschedule non-urgent or elective surgical procedures to create capacity to accommodate the growing volume of COVID-19 cases, preserve necessary supplies, and ensure the safety of patients and hospital staff.

Children's hospitals joined the national effort to support the public health crisis, but these deferred volumes have resulted in significant revenue losses and the delay in care has been distressing to parents and patients who have often waited months for an important diagnostic or therapeutic treatment. Additionally, children's hospitals are facing new financial challenges for the nonelective treatment that has continued. This care for many of these patients cannot be delayed due to the COVID-19 response; their care must move forward on schedule in order to receive the necessary treatment for their pediatric cancer or be able to avoid facing a lifelong disability.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 relief efforts enacted to date may provide only minor assistance for children's hospitals—leaving the safety net providers for our nation's children with a significant burden. Collectively, these losses for our nation's children's hospitals over the next several months may total over \$10 billion. Much of the federal funding dedicated by Congress to provide relief for health care providers thus far has been directed through Medicare, which is not a significant program for children's hospitals. The first allocation of funding for hospitals from

the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses Medicare revenues as the measure for assistance—virtually disqualifying children’s hospitals from receiving any aid, since the vast majority of children’s hospitals are not-for-profit, community-benefit organizations—and Medicaid, not Medicare, is the payer for more than 50% of all patient volumes. While HHS may release additional funding that is not tied to Medicare, Congress must step up to provide dedicated funding to our children’s hospitals to address their unique situation during this time.

The needs of children, and those who provide their care, must be given special consideration as we continue to address this public health crisis. Children’s hospitals cannot sustain financial losses of this magnitude without some form of federal relief funding exclusively directed towards children’s hospitals.

We stand ready to support our country’s pediatric hospitals to ensure they get the help they need. We urge you to include federal funding for our children’s hospitals as they continue to play a vital role in our nation’s fight against COVID-19 and provide the necessary care to our health system’s most vulnerable children.

We look forward to working together to protect and serve Americans of all ages during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

David Trone  
Member of Congress

David P. Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
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Mike Doyle  
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Ilhan Omar  
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Jamie Raskin  
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Tusli Gabbard  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
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Chris Stewart  
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Mike Turner  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
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Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
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Jim Hagedorn  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
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Ed Perlmutter  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
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Joyce Beatty  
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Bill Johnson  
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Veronica Escobar  
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French Hill  
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Tom Cole  
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Terri Sewell  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Steve Stivers  
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Eliot Engel  
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Al Lawson  
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Sean Casten  
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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
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Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
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John Lewis  
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J. Luis Correa  
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Pete Olson  
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Josh Harder  
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Colin Allred  
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Haley Stevens  
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Albio Sires  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Dina Titus  
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Rick Crawford  
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Jack Bergman  
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Rodney Davis  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

John Rutherford  
Member of Congress